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## The GEM

News, Sport, Letters,  
Features, What's On,  
Jobs, Motors....

# The Glamorgan GEM



"Your ORIGINAL priceless  
weekly newspaper"

The area's  
longest serving  
Community  
Newspaper

Established 1983

Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/11 - 42,235  
(GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2012



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At Waitrose, we call ourselves "Partners", because everyone who works here owns a share of the business. When you shop at Waitrose you'll notice the difference this makes, because we all care personally that you are looked after well. Many of us choose to train as specialists in fish, meat, wine or cheese and our passion and knowledge can help turn your meal into something special. So if you'd like a recommendation, you can ask an expert.

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# Bridgend & Porthcawl

# GEM



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## OH, HAPPY DAY... school choir gets gospel feeling!



ABOVE: St Clare's School's choir recently sang with the London Community Gospel Choir in Swansea. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3)

## Attempted burglary: Police appeal

POLICE are appealing for information following an attempted burglary at a house on Gerddi Quarella, Bridgend, between 2.55pm and 3.30pm on Friday, October 19.

A spokeswoman stated that the resident returned home at approximately 3.45pm to find the lock on the back door had been damaged and the barrel pushed through.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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MAN STARTED BUSINESS AFTER BANKRUPTCY

## Jail sentence for couple who ran a cannabis farm

by AJ  
SICLUNA

A FARMER'S complaint about dogs disturbing his cattle, has led to a man and his partner being jailed for a series of drugs offences at Cardiff Crown Court.

Police were called to the scene and discovered a cannabis factory in Pencoed, with a crop of the drug worth more than £51,000, said prosecutor Gareth James.

Richard Thomas, 47, of Eustace Drive, Bryncethin, was jailed for three years, four months, and Karen Desombre, 43, of the same address, was jailed for 20 months.

Both pleaded guilty to charges of producing cannabis and possessing cocaine.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 9)

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for a glass of Champagne.







# Co-Op staff walk for 24 hours to support Chloe Bigmore Trust

**THREE staff from the Porthcawl branch of the Co-operative have walked continuously for 24 hours, covering 52 miles, in a bid to raise money for charity.**

Rebecca Morgan (18), from Pencoed, Kev Dickinson (29), of Porthcawl, and Bridgend's Glen Davies (21) set off from their branch at 10am on October 20, and headed straight along the coastal path past Margam and Port Talbot, before hitting Swansea.

They were fundraising for the Chloe Bigmore Trust, which aims to raise enough money to purchase a house in the area for families with terminally ill children to visit to escape the pressures of everyday life.

They stopped for an hour in Swansea at

Rebecca's student accommodation, where she is studying Welsh and history at Swansea University, and to take on warm food and drink before heading to the Mumbles.

Rebecca told The GEM that due to the dark, and being unsure of the area, they then returned to Porthcawl by car to finish the rest of the challenge in more familiar surroundings.

She said: "My feet were really badly blistered and I wasn't in a good state. It was very, very difficult, tougher than we thought."

"We were struggling to stay awake but were determined to finish. We were more comfortable walking somewhere we know."

"The toughest part was throughout the night. There was both physical and mental tiredness but there were no arguments, we kept each other going."

Rebecca also paid



**LEFT TO RIGHT: Kev Dickinson, Glen Davies and Rebecca Morgan prepare to set off on their 24-hour walk for charity.**

tribute to her two companions, among others, who helped along the way.

She continued: "I'd like to thank the boys, without whom I couldn't have finished. They carried my rucksack for me when I was really struggling."

"Then we had people who came out to bring us warm food and drink and follow us through the night to make sure we were okay - Richard Jones, Pat and Mike Harbottle, John Morgan

and Gareth Davies especially."

"I'll probably never do anything so extreme again, but it was a massive achievement and I'll definitely do charity work again."

The walk alone raised around £1,000, with collections ongoing. More events, such as an in-store leg wax are planned, so to donate, pop in to the store in Porthcawl.

**Leigh Gruffydd Sanders**

## A touch of Ethiopia comes to Porthcawl

**SUSSED will celebrate its partnership with Valley and Vale community arts, and gem art by dazzling James Street on November 9 at 7.30pm, at SUSSED, Porthcawl; £3 entry.**

The award-winning Ethiopian and Welsh dance collaboration, includes traditional Ethiopian music, and authentic Ethiopian food at the launch of Gemini-SUSSED.

World-renowned dancers, Junaid Jemal Sendi and Addisu Demissie, will be

demonstrating their unique mix of contemporary dance with traditional Ethiopian influences.

SUSSED employee, Michael Gore, said: "Junaid and Addisu have been dancing together in Addis Ababa since they were 12 years old, where they were spotted by the charity, Dance United, and have since gone on to achieve greatness across Europe."

"They now work with the Adugna community dance theatre company in Addis Ababa; changing the lives of disadvantaged young people through dance."

Junaid will be performing at the event with Welsh dancer/choreographer Jessie Brett.

On behalf of the directors of SUSSED, Margaret Minihinnick, explained: "All of this is to celebrate the new partnership between Porthcawl community cooperative, SUSSED, and the Ethiopian NGO, Gem Art. Gem Art is part of the Gemini Foundation, which was set up 25 years ago in the slums of Addis Ababa to help the families of twins."

## Pool party

**THERE will be a Halo Hallowe'en pool party at Bridgend Recreation Centre on Saturday, November 3, between 6pm-8pm.**

**For further information, call 0300 012 1223 option 1, or ask at reception.**

# St Clare's pupils join London Community Gospel Choir on stage

**SINGING stars from a Porthcawl school had a "happy day" recently, joining a world-famous choir on-stage.**

St Clare's School's choir watched London Community Gospel Choir at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, as part of their extra-curricular activities. Part of the largest group of independent schools in the UK, Cognita Schools, St Clare's is an independent day school for children aged between two and a half and 18 years of age.

The award-winning choir, who have performed with stars such as Elton John, George Michael and Kylie Minogue, were so impressed with the Newton school pupils they invited them up to perform in front of the audience.



**Rebecca Lewis tackles a gospel classic.**

Rebecca Lewis (17) who led an acapella version of 'Oh Happy Day', said: "We are used to singing in front of audiences with St Clare's but the experience at the Grand Theatre was out of this world. "The school really supports me in achieving my potential and

now I've got a taste for it, I hope it's not the last time I get to play venues like this!"

St Clare's teacher, Jessica Rolls said: "It was a superb night and testament to the talent of our pupils that they made such an impression on these international stars."

## MP SUPPORTS MISSING PERSONS' CHARITY

**BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon, joined families of missing people on October 23, to pledge support for the charity Missing People, which is seeking legislative support for families fighting the bureaucracy and heartache of resolving or managing a missing loved one's affairs.**

She met Peter Lawrence, father of missing Claudia, and Claire Chandler, whose partner went missing in February 2011. Mrs Moon signed a postcard to formally show her support for the campaign.

The charity Missing People has campaigned for a number of years to secure support for families and ensure that anyone affected by the 'missing' issue is spared any unnecessary anguish caused by financial and legal bureaucracy.

Mrs Moon said: "Families are devastated when a loved one goes missing and this is exacerbated by the difficulties they can face in trying to manage the missing person's affairs and dealing with the bureaucracy that accompanies it."

"I am pleased to support this worthwhile campaign and its aims to help these families. "I will look to support legislation that is brought forward to assist these families and spare them unnecessary pain."

More information about the campaign can be found at [HYPERLINK "http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/"](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/) <http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/>



**ABOVE: Madeleine Moon signs up to support the charity.**

## CRIME AT FIRST HAND

**THE Tory candidate for south Wales Police and Crime Commissioner became a victim of crime herself recently.**

The Baker Boy café in Porthcawl, owned by Caroline Jones, was broken into in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"Fortunately, no-one was hurt but there was extensive damage to the front of the building," she said, adding: "This incident is a clear reminder that there is more to be done to tackle anti-social behaviour and if elected, that is exactly what I will do."

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## Maesteg cadets go up, up and away by glider



**ABOVE: Cadet Chelsea Cahill in a Vigilant motor glider.**

**Three Cadets from 631 (Maesteg) Squadron Air Training Corps took the opportunity to fly in gliders last weekend at 636 Volunteer Gliding Squadron (VGS) based at Swansea Airport.**

Sergeant Chris Raymond, Corporal David Lakin and Cadet Chelsea Cahill each flew half-hour sorties as part of their gliding induction course.

These build up flying skills so that they can, if they wish, go on to a gliding scholarship course that trains them to solo standard on Vigilant motor gliders.

Built in Germany, the Vigilant is a two-seat training motor-glider with a 17.4m wingspan and cruises at 60 knots.

They were accompanied to Swansea by their commanding officer, Flight Lieutenant Anthony Davies, who was at one time a flying instructor at 636 VGS.

Any enrolled cadet can take the gliding induction course, but those selected for a gliding scholarship must be aged 16 and over and pass a simple medical test.

631 Squadron meet at Upper Street, Maesteg, on a Tuesday and Friday evening and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over.

The squadron also welcomes adults who would like to help.

They do not need to have previous ATC or RAF experience, and can serve either in a uniformed or civilian instructor capacity.

**JOHN FINCH**



# St Clare's pupils and parents relish their new dining hall!

**RIGHT:**  
**Chef manager Debbie Kerswell gives pupils and parents a taste of the St Clare's menu: Olivia Thorne, parent Jacqui Rava, chef Debbie Kerswell, parent Leanne Walker, Mithun Padmanabhan**

**A PORTHCAWL school has received the thumbs-up from pupils and parents at the opening of its tasty new dining hall.**

At St Clare's School, Newton, students and their parents were invited to feast on a variety of options from the school's new menu – to showcase the nutritious and balanced meals now on offer.

These included tasters of homemade sweet and sour chicken with steamed rice, roast vegetables and apple and cinnamon crumble.

The independent day school for children aged between two and a half and 18 years of age, now has a new wooden-clad hall with state-of-the-art kitchen, which fits sympathetically into its historic surroundings.

St Clare's has appointed a new catering company, Thomas Franks, led by chef manager Debbie Kerswell, who, with her team, has developed an imaginative programme of menus to "encourage a positive attitude



towards a healthy diet for pupils and staff".

Debbie said: "We have created menus that will help pupils of all ages keep concentration levels high during lessons after lunch, and provide them with the energy they need for sport in the afternoon. It is very important that the children eat a bal-

anced diet; and that we make healthy eating fun, so that it creates good habits which will continue through their lives."

The nutritious menus will vary from week to week, and include traditional wholesome fare alongside light and refreshing alternatives. Themed days at least

once a month will showcase food from around the world, and the school will hold various events and activities throughout the year to show children first-hand the benefits of healthy eating.

St Clare's headmaster, John Aguilar, commented: "At St Clare's School, we work hard to set our pupils up for success in the future, and promoting healthy eating is a crucial part of this."

"It has been proven that diet has a significant effect on attentiveness and performance from the classroom to the playing field."

"We firmly believe in promoting an understanding of, and commitment to, healthy eating."

"The thumbs-up we've received from parents and pupils suggests they hold the same values."

Headed by leading educationalist, Sir Chris Woodhead, the school's parent group Cognita is run by education experts with specialist expertise in all areas of independent education.

**BETHAN EVANS**  
*Press secretary*

## Young farmers celebrate harvest

**BRIDGEND YFC's annual harvest service was recently held at All Saints' Church in Porthcawl.**

The church was beautifully decorated the night before with fruit and vegetables donated by members and friends of the club.

It was a lovely service with many of the members doing readings along with Father Philip Masson and Fr Craig Vaughan. David Rees, a club member, also sang Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn as a solo. A collection during the service raised £245, half of which was given as a donation to the church.

After the service an auction was held of the offerings with baskets of fruit and vegetables, flowers, walking sticks, chocolates and drinks sold.

The auction raised £385, with proceeds this year going to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent institution, Bridgend YFC and Wales Air Ambulance.

Our club leaders were on hand to serve tea and coffee and everyone helped themselves to the light refreshments on offer, kindly donated by members, family and friends of the club.

On behalf of Bridgend YFC we would like to thank The Rector and churchwardens for the use of the church, Daniel Pugh-Bevan for playing the organ on the night, John Griffiths our auctioneer and all who have helped with the organisation of the service.

**BETHAN EVANS**  
*Press secretary*

## Maesteg Community Hospital: LEAGUE OF FRIENDS UPDATE

**NEXT year marks the centenary of Maesteg hospital, and events are being planned to celebrate the occasion, a correspondent reports.**

The foundation stones, which can be seen on the front of Maesteg Community Hospital, were laid on October 15, 1913.

On the same day, an engraved silver trowel was presented by the architect, J Humphreys, Esq. to J Lipscombe, Esq. JP, to commemorate the laying of the first stone.

Some of the funding for the building of the hospital was donated by the many miners who were working in the local collieries at the time, and it was known as the miners' hospital for many years.

Patients were admitted to the hospital in the following years, many of whom were injured soldiers returning from the First World War.

There is a collage of photographs in the foyer of the main building picturing many of those who were treated in the hospital at the time.

### FRIENDS' ROLE

In 1962, the Maesteg Community Hospital League of Friends was formed with the aim of raising funding to provide items of equipment for the patients at the hospital.

Every year since then the League has held a fete and invited everyone from the town to come along to support their local hospital.

Over the years, they have raised almost £300,000 which has

been spent on equipment and comforts for the patients, including the provision of a sound proof room for hearing tests, a special Hi-Lo Bath and Hoist, Christmas gifts each year for the patients and numerous other items.

The fete has been held at various locations. Originally it was held in the Welfare Park, and more recently in the Maesteg Cricket Club grounds.

This year, the fete was held in the Celtic Club in Garth.

Luckily, it was a lovely sunny day, and once again the people of Maesteg turned out in force to show their support.

More than £6,000 was raised between the fete and the concert, which will be spent on a special couch and an urgently needed piece of equipment for the gynaecology department.

Next year will be the 51st annual fete, and the League hope to have two marquees which will be placed on the playing fields behind the hall.

This should help with the overcrowding problems in the main hall and provide a refreshments tent for the mums and dads and a games tent for the children.

The League has been promised a number of traditional wooden

games which will be ready for next year. They aim to raise £10,000 to decorate and furnish a comfortable room where relatives of those who are very poorly will be able to stay.

They would welcome any new ideas for stalls or fundraising.

The League is very lucky to have the support of other community groups who man the many stalls and attractions.

They are very grateful for the help and support of these groups and individuals, without whom the fete could not take place.

The League also receives sponsorship from many local people and organisations who give donations and legacies to help them supply items requested by the dedicated nursing and administrative staff.

*The League is looking for people who could give a small amount of time, either to be on the organising committee, or to help out on the day of the fete, which will be on June 19 in 2013. There will also be a concert on June 21.*

*If you can help in any way, please contact their chairman, Mr John Thomas on 01639 896118 or e-mail the secretary lm.williams@talktalk.net*

## Parents urged to make a 'Fresh Start' with kids

**FRESH Start Wales, the Welsh Government initiative to reduce children's exposure to second-hand smoke in cars, is coming to Bridgend Designer Outlet this Saturday, November 3.**

Part of the 'Make a Wish' campaign Patch the Fresh Start dragon and the Fresh Start Wales ambassadors are asking parents and carers to pledge their support to the campaign by not smoking in cars carrying children.

The team will be handing out branded

Fresh Start Wales rain ponchos, shopping bags and miniature rugby balls, and there will be an entertainer making balloon cars and a colouring station.

Children will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with Patch, in the Fresh Start gazebo, while parents will be encouraged to take part in breath-testing to measure their CO levels.

Families in Bridgend who want to show support for the campaign can sign the online pledge at:

Facebook.com/FreshStartWales, or at: www.freshstartwales.co.uk.

## Victorian Christmas

**BRYNGARW House and Country Park in Brynmynyn, Bridgend, will be hosting a Christmas-themed weekend with a Victorian twist on December 15-16 between 11am-5pm.**

'A Victorian Christmas' this year will be packed with even more fun festivities, with a festive market with locally produced foods and crafts, Victorian-themed rides including swing boats, a children's toy set ride and an octopus ride.

There will be festive Christmas music played on a barrel organ together with a brass band. Victorian storytellers will tell the story of how Christmas would have played out in houses during the Victorian period.

## WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Mrs Holland - 10 Newton Nottage Road, Porthcawl - 30 per cent crown reduction and crown raise to 6m over highway of 3 x London plane.

BCBC ICT and Property - Pyle Life Centre, Helig Fan, Pyle - change of use form Class D1 and D2 to B1, B8, D1 and D2 (mixed use) and internal partition alterations.

Mrs B Sheppard - 85 Heol Llan, North Cornelly - Single storey rear extension with associated works.

South Wales Estates - Florentine 1, Commercial Street, Ogmere

Vale - Change of existing use from A1 retail to A3 takeaway for consumption of hot food off the premises.

Mr Dean Taylor - The Braichycymmer Hotel, Pleasant View, Pontyrryl - Change of use of first floor living accommodation to function room and new external staircase.

Penybont Real Estate Company Ltd - Rear of 45 John Street, Porthcawl - Conversion of store/garage building into single small office.

Hafod Housing Association Ltd - 66 Commercial Street, Maesteg

- External wall insulation. Mr Ron Morgan - Plot 44, Porth y Castell, Coity - Conservatory to rear.

Mr Philip Petty - Crossing Cottage, Lamb Row, South Cornelly - Variation of condition 3 of consent P/08/4/FUL to provide replacement parking to the rear of crossing cottage.

Mr Mathew Taylor - 2 Cefn Cross, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr - Create hardstanding to front of dwelling and create new access onto classified road.

Bassetts (South Wales) Ltd - Land at Dunraven Street,

Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend - Construction of new car sales and associated servicing workshop.

Mr P Hurd - Maes yr Haf, Keir Hardie Road, Maesteg - Erect 1.5 extension and Juliet balcony to side, demolish double garage and erect new detached double garage.

Nantyffyllon RFC - Blossie Street, Nantyffyllon, Maesteg - Demolish clubhouse and construct new clubhouse and all weather pitch and relocate main outdoor pitch.

Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC -

Land NW of Coed Bychan Farmhouse, Llanharan - Erection of one wind turbine and associated works.

McCarthy and Stone - Rear Seabank Hotel, The Green Avenue, Porthcawl - Install four air source heat pumps and install double gates for maintenance of pumps.

Mr Don Watkins - 3 Y Lleest, Pen-y-Fai - Utility room and garage extension.

Ms J Jones - 25 Ger y Llyn, Porthcawl - Single storey granny annexe extension to side of existing property.

Mr and Mrs R James - Pyllau House, Coytrahen - Lawful development certificate for an existing use of the land as garden curtilage.

The Planning Inspectorate - Swansea Bay, Swansea - Proposed tidal lagoon.

Mr Stone - 15 Heather Close, Sarn - Conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr Woodland - 63 Hendre Road, Pencoed - Edwardian conservatory to rear.

Mr L Crumbe - 43 Oaklands Avenue, Bridgend - Rear conservatory to semi detached bun-



# Full marks for entries in Pyle & Porthcawl photo competition!



LEFT: The winning entry, 'Red Deer Stag at Dawn' by Paul Rosser



ABOVE: 'Window World' by Richard Craze

**PYLE and Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual Dennis Line Memorial Trophy competition on October 18, at the Rest in Porthcawl.**

The competition was for both prints and digital projected images, and each member could enter up to four images.

John Davies, who not only awarded the marks, but also provided a critique on each image, judged the competition.

First place was a tie between the print 'Red Deer Stag at Dawn' by Paul Rosser and the digital image 'Red-eyed Tree Frog' by Trevor Owen, with both achieving a mark of 20 out of 20. After due consideration, the trophy was awarded to Paul Rosser.

Glyn Edmunds with 'Squawk!', Dan Minto with 'Round the Pole' and Geoffrey Baker with 'Wings' all recorded 19 points. Glyn Edmunds with 'Look into my Eyes', Martin Derbyshire with 'BBE Expired', Richard Craze with 'Window World' and John Corcoran with both 'Waiting Game' and 'Waiting', all scored 18 points.

Congratulations to Paul for winning such a close-run competition and a big thank you to all who took part and made it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

GE



Winner Paul Rosser takes the trophy.



'Red-eyed Tree Frog' by Trevor Owen



'Round The Pole' by Dan Minto

## BROADWAY IN PORTHCAWL



The Broadway chorus aims to make things go with a swing.

## Bridgend's budding stars make their mark on stage and on TV

OVER the summer, several local children had the opportunity to work on top TV programmes, thanks to The Big Talent School and Agency, which has roots in Bridgend.

The co-founder of the company, Leigh-Ann Regan also has an agency for adults, Regan Rimmer Management, and is also a successful casting director.

Corey Wickenden (12) of Brackla, a pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive, has just finished playing the child lead, Peter, in Harvey Weinstein's major new musical, *Finding Neverland* at the Leicester Curve theatre.

His father played Buddy Holly in the West End and his mother Penny is principal of dance school Performing Arts Cymru.

"We have had such lovely compliments from all the cast and crew about Corey's professionalism."

"Being proud doesn't seem a big enough word," said mum, Penny.

Nathan Williams (15) is also a pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive. His first professional acting job was a TV commercial for Sega, but this autumn he plays Bryn in the new series of *Wolfblood* on CBBC.

Tom Herbert (9) of Porthcawl, has appeared in two TV commercials for Nestle Maggi and Pets at Home.

This summer he spent a week filming on *Casualty*, playing Bobby across two

episodes and most recently worked on the hit series *Being Human*.

Jack Williams (11) of Bridgend, starred in a BBC/It's My Shout film, entitled *Lovestruck*, that has been winning awards around the world.

He has also worked with Ray Winstone on the film *Jerusalem*.

Leigh-Ann, a Bridgend resident for the past eight years,

said: "It's great to see local talent doing so well on the national stage and screen."

"It's taken years to build up our contacts as agents and it's a privilege to be able to introduce the major casting directors in this country to the next generation of actors."

"Watch out for these boys - they're going to be Big!"

## New airport is needed - to put Wales on the map!

**I**T was with interest that I read the letter from Mr Luke Nicholas recently published in The GEM, regarding the status of Cardiff Airport, headed 'Assembly must have a stake in the airport'.

What he says is perfectly true and the current owners seem to be showing little interest in developing or investing in the airport further.

It is not surprising to hear that Bristol Airport is booming, with flights from there being far less expensive than those from Cardiff Airport.

Cardiff Airport's location can hardly be described as convenient either, with it being closer to Barry and around 12 miles from Cardiff city centre.

Even more from the M4 corridor!

I personally do not feel that flying into Cardiff Airport can be considered a pleasurable experience, or a good advertisement for Wales, given its current location and status.

### Reader's view

However, I do agree that political leadership does need to be taken; but this needs to be decisive and not simply by pouring public money into an airport that is not just withering on the vine (as aptly put by Mr Nicholas!) but seems to be quite clearly about to fall off the vine!

I appreciate we live in austere times, but if anything is to be considered, it should be to look ahead at the bigger picture on the future development and inward investment for Wales.

Maybe it is time to think of build a new 'state of the art' airport in a more accessible and convenient location for the M4 corridor, perhaps somewhere between Cardiff and Newport where there seems to be plenty of land available.

After all, if billions of pounds can be spent on a one-off event like the Olympic Games, why can't Wales have a new airport to put it on the map?

Andrew Small

## Y Centre

THE GEM reported last week on the upcoming re-opening of the refurbished Y Centre in Porthcawl on November 7.

Y Centre would like it to be known that this project has been supported by the Community Economic Development (CED) programme, delivered in partnership by a six-valley local authority consortium of: Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen.

The CED programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.

THE autumn 'Broadway' show, presented by Porthcawl Operatic Society, takes place at 7.30pm in the Grand Pavilion on Saturday, November 24.

New guests are the Phil Dando Big Band and the Sarah Burnell School of Dance and the Broadway Kids will also join the show, to present their own take on songs from *Whistle Down The Wind*, *Oliver* and *Willy Wonka*.

Other popular show-stoppers include items from *The King and I*, *Sweeney Todd* and *My Fair Lady*.

Phil Dando provides music from the Big Band era.

Contact 01656 815995 for tickets.

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# Tractor Boys of Aberthyn put on a special day for a special pair of young twin sisters

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthyn staged one of their charity runs last Sunday (October 28) – and a local six-year-old girl was the star guest.

The event was in aid of Elena Wyatt, who suffers from Mowat Wilson Syndrome (MWS), and aimed to raise awareness of the condition.

Elena and her twin sister Louisa joined other children who were able to ride on the tractors and enjoy the day.

For a full report on Elena, and how she copes with MWS, see page 34.



ABOVE: Elena's twin sister, Louisa (right) with a friend.

ABOVE: Elena Wyatt was the star guest.



# Kenfig Hill Cadets get tour of MoD St Athan

ON October 20, Hunter Flying Ltd based at MoD St Athan slid back its hangar doors to welcome RAF Air Cadets and staff from Kenfig Hill, Porthcawl, Cowbridge and Pencoed.

The visit was arranged by Sgt (ATC) Kevin Gould of 2117 Kenfig Hill Squadron and John Sparks, chief engineer, welcomed the Cadets into the facility.

Two engineers showed them around the various aircraft, which included a number of Hawker Hunters, the type of aircraft that is the Squadron Gate Guard in Kenfig Hill.

There was the opportunity to look inside a number of aircraft being restored at the facility, which

include four Czech built L-29 aircraft that will form a new air display team for next year, and a rare Gannett XL500, that is on a two-year rebuild to restore it to flying condition.

At the end of the tour, Instructor Staff Cadet Warrant Officer Nico Fitzgibbon presented a 2117 Kenfig Hill plaque to John Sparks.

The Cadets were then taken to have a look at two Canadian water bombers parked outside another of the new companies at St Athan, Cardiff Aviation Ltd, a photo of which can be seen on the Squadron's Facebook page.

LINDSAY THOMAS  
(Secretary, Civilian Committee)



ISCWO Fitzgibbon presenting the plaque (above) to John Sparks.

## Call goes out for Befrienders!



LEFT: Joyce Rayer and her Community Companions volunteer Liz Elis

**A COMMUNITY Companions befriending scheme funded by the Big Lottery Fund helps socially-isolated people over 50 in Bridgend county borough to meet new people, improve access to local services and improve their health and wellbeing.**

Led by BAVO in partnership with other organisations, it is appealing for more men to volunteer!

"Our volunteers may befriend an older person by visiting them in their own home for a couple of hours a week, accompany them to go shopping, visit our community cafés or various other social activities and clubs," a spokesman said.

Liz Elis from

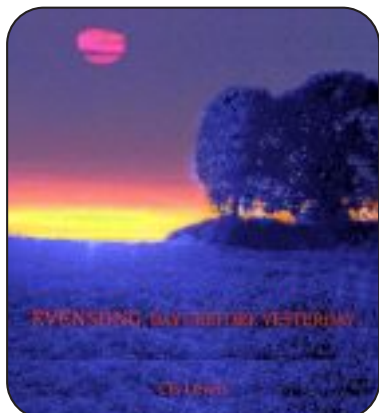
Bridgend recently became a Community Companions volunteer befriender to Joyce Rayer who also lives in Bridgend.

Liz says: "This is something I have always wanted to do, even though I work full time. With the Community Companions project, I am able to become a Befriender in my free time. I have found a new friend in Joyce and think the scheme is wonderful."

Joyce said: "Without Liz, I would not be able to get out of the house. We go all over the place, shopping, and going for coffee. Without Liz, I would be stuck in all the time."

You do not need qualifications to become a volunteer as full training will be provided. For further details, call BAVO, T: 01656 810400 or E: bavo@bavo.org.uk Jane Savile - BAVO

## Author publishes his first novel



CG Lewis' Evensong: Days Before Yesterday.

**A BRACKLA man has written his debut novel – Evensong: Days Before Yesterday, available on Amazon Books.**

Colin Gittings (64), retired, writing under the pen name CG Lewis, took three-and-a-half years to complete the novel. He moved to Bridgend in 1988, and during his working life he was an area manager with Welsh Brewers Ltd (Bass) and SA Brain & Co.

He wrote the book because: "I felt I had a tale to tell, and I wanted to share it. If it brings even one person the same pleasure that I got from writing it, then it will have been well worth the effort."

The novel is a work of romantic fiction in a historical setting. It comprises five separate 'books' which tell the multifaceted story of

Tom Gresham, from his birth in 1902 until September 1940.

Colin adds: "It's a tale of life, love, the fulfilment of a pastoral dream; and of betrayal and heartbreak. It explores the whole gamut of human emotions – from the heights of elation at hard-earned achievements and the sweet contentment of a loving relationship, to the depths of hatred and compulsion."

"I believe that I have written it with a degree of sensitivity and empathy that will appeal to a wide spectrum of readers, male and female alike."

"While mainly autobiographical in nature, it is interspersed with narrative chapters, which add significance and perspective for the reader, although some chapters – whether written in the first or third person – deliberately lack obvious chronological continuity."

## 'SHOUT' before it's too late'

**PORHTCAWL SHOUT Forum are holding an open meeting on Friday November 2 at 2pm at Trinity Church to discuss the many implications of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg (AMB) University Health Board's strategy.**

This follows the attendance of their executive team at the NHS Consultation launch exhibition at the Pavilion on October 17. It provides a further opportunity for its members and the people of Porthcawl to further discuss the major changes and issues that will soon alter our NHS.

The event should be a highlight in the consultation process in Porthcawl because the AMB chief executive officer, Paul Roberts, accompanied by the Director of Clinical Strategy Hamish Laing, have kindly agreed to lead the discussion based

on the excellent 'Changing for the Better' explanatory booklet being widely distributed.

There is nothing more important to most people at this time than the reorganisation of the health board. Following on from the recent visit to the Forum of Mr Win Griffiths, retiring chairman of the AMB Health Board, we have arranged an ongoing programme which will see us welcome Sarah Rochira (Older Peoples' Commissioner) to our December 7 meeting.

We are also delighted to say that following a most interesting meeting that he attended last year, First Minister Carwyn Jones has accepted our invitation to attend our January 4 meeting.

Put these dates in your diaries and come and join 'SHOUT'. Our motto remains: 'Together we can make a difference'.

CLIVE MORT  
Hon secretary

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## Centre saved

TWO years ago, Ynysawdre community centre was about to close because all the members of the support committee had resigned.

Mrs Mair Norton took it upon herself to form a new support committee, enlisted members of the community, and formed a new group who have worked together to ensure the community centre stayed open.

They have done everything possible to ensure the centre was fit for purpose. They have carried out all the necessary tasks themselves,

including cleaning the exterior and interior of the building, and mowing the grass verges to the paths.

Theirs is a success story – the centre is now in use seven days a week for various functions, while every six weeks, the committee arrange for an entertainment show to keep the public interested.

The most recent was an Irish dance group from Betws, who kindly donated their fees back to the committee, for which the committee are grateful.

The committee successfully applied to the National Lottery for a grant so that the toilets

in the centre could be renovated.

Thanks to the perseverance of one lady, who convinced others in the community to assist, and everyone's hard work, the community centre has been resurrected.

**Children's choir**  
MAESTEG children's choir recently travelled to Kenfig Hill to entertain residents of Llys Ton retirement home.

The choir performed a varied and lively programme, which included music and songs from West End and Broadway shows. The residents truly appreciated the

show, and thanked the children for their kindness.

The choir is busy rehearsing for its programme over Christmas, when it will be appearing in five concerts.

Founder member of the choir, Mrs Beatrice Alsop-Jones, recently

celebrated her 80th birthday and everyone wishes her a happy and peaceful year.

**Festive appeal**  
MEMBERS of the Salvation Army, Maesteg are again organising a concert at Maesteg

Comprehensive School, to raise money and donations of toys for the West Glamorgan Council's alcohol and drug abuse appeal for Christmas presents for needy children in the area.

The concert on November 30 at 7.15pm, has a number of local choirs appearing on the programme, including Nantyllon primary school, Maesteg children's choir and Noteworthy mixed voice, with music provided by the Salvation Army band.

There will also be solo performances by Harvey Rees (trumpet) and Rhianon Williams-Hale (piano).

The concert will be sponsored by the Co-op Funeral Care in Bridgend; tickets £6 adults, £3 children.

There will be a refund of £2 to every adult who donates a toy or, hopefully, toys!

## Hospital appeal

TO help raise funds for Velindre Hospital Chemotherapy day unit, there is an evening of entertainment at Brackla Community Centre, Whitethorn Drive on November 14 from 7pm, with comedians, dance groups, musicians and choirs.

For further information, contact David on 07974 023761; admission £5.

## 60s music

ON November 16, there is a dance to raise money for the Sandville Self Help Centre at the Ogmere Constituency Labour Party Club, Bryntirion Hill, Bridgend.

The music will be predominately 60s type with Dave Reilly. Tickets £5 at the door; all money raised goes to the charity.

**Poppy appeal**  
THERE will be a concert of Remembrance at Maesteg town hall on Saturday, November 10 at 7pm.

Entertainment will be provided by Briton Ferry silver band with Cór Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies Choir), Sian Rushforth (harp) and Bethan a Meinir (vocal duo).

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of THE GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycod1@yahoo.co.uk



that they can be sent in good time for the children to receive them on Christmas day.

## Fireworks

THERE will be a Guy Fawkes day fireworks display on Llangenor Football field on November 5 at 6.30pm.

Entry will be by ticket only, obtained from Cath on 07868 343846.

## Competition

MAESTEG 'Gleeman' male voice choir will be again organising the competition sponsored by Dunraven Windows Plc, open to singers between the ages of 19-26 years at September 1, 2013, studying classical singing on a full/part time basis.

The winner will receive a prize of £2,500, a perpetual and personal trophy and appear in concert with the Maesteg Gleeman in the Town Hall, Maesteg, on Saturday, March 30, 2013.

All other finalists will receive a personal trophy and a runner-up prize of £500 each.

Successful applicants will attend a live, closed audition on Saturday,

November 3, at Maesteg Town Hall. The final will be held at Maesteg Town Hall on January 19, 2013.

## Remembrance

A SHORT service of Remembrance will be held in Aberkenfig Square on Sunday, November 11 at 10.45am, followed by a short service in St John's church, Aberkenfig.

Côr Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley ladies choir) will be leading the choral singing at Maesteg Cenotaph at 10.45am.

Ogmere Valley male voice choir will lead the community hymn singing in a concert at Blaengwynfi school starting at 10am.

## Operation

Christmas Child I WOULD advise readers that there is a collection of shoe boxes at Nolton church and Specsavers in Adare Street, Bridgend, between November 1-16.

There will not be a collection at St Bride's church, Llansantffraid this year.

# Please support our Cardiff pet hospital appeal



PDSA Ambassador Joanna Page

We urgently need to raise funds for a replacement pet hospital in Cardiff.

Text 'pet' to 70800 to donate £5

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# Conservatives' plan to revive the high street

**THE Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies, has launched a plan to revitalise the Welsh high street.**

The launch took place at the Mount Sorrell Hotel in Barry and was followed by visits to a number of small businesses

Among the Conservative proposals to revive high streets are a consultation on business rates to make the Welsh economy more competitive; a charter for high streets so 'best practice' is shared; town centre managers; and more planning guidance from the Welsh

Government. Assembly Members are being invited to 'adopt' a local high street in their constituency and Mr Davies chose Barry High Street.

He said: "I will be working proactively to champion the high street, liaising with local shoppers and businesses, as well as local authorities and interest groups such as the Chamber of Trade.

"We've outlined a number of sensible proposals to help with this and I was heartened to hear the First Minister confirm that the Welsh Government will be considering these in detail.

"There needs to be a constructive partnership between local authori-

ties and the Welsh Government to bring high streets back to the heart of local communities.

"This could include experimenting with free parking initiatives to make local shopping more convenient and competitive, particularly in the face of the rise and rise of out of town shopping centres."

Mr Davies added: "We also want to see reform of the Welsh Government's business rates system, which is currently a major obstacle to growth - and which makes it difficult for small businesses to develop, expand and create new jobs."

## Prime Cymru's new service covers county borough

**PRIME CYMRU, the charity established to assist people over 50 into work or business, has launched a new service that covers Bridgend county borough.**

With Welsh Government support, PRIME Cymru will be offering a personalised service to anyone looking to find work, or who wants to improve their chances of employment through education or training opportunities, as well as those looking to use volunteering as a stepping stone to work.

There are currently more than 10,000 people between the age of 50 and state pension age in Bridgend who are jobless.

A spokesperson said: "PRIME Cymru will provide an individual service to anyone over 50 who is looking to become economically active.

"Every client will receive one-to-one support in creating their own personal development plan. Where appropriate, each person will work with their own mentor who will guide and support them to fulfil their ambitions.

"PRIME Cymru will be working with other providers to ensure that clients can obtain the relevant education, training and volunteering opportunities."

David Pugh, chief executive of PRIME Cymru, said: "We welcome the support of the Welsh Government which will allow us to extend and improve our services to older people in Bridgend.

"We acknowledge their recognition that older workers have an enormous amount of skills and experience to bring to the workplace, but quite often do not have the formal qualifications required by employers.

"Our programme has been specifically designed with, for and by older jobseekers and entrepreneurs.

"More than 10 years' experience has resulted in tailored support packages being developed and agreed with each individual client.

"We are looking forward to working with and supporting many more mature jobseekers and entrepreneurs in Bridgend."

# Bridgend man urges Parkinson's sufferers to 'be prepared' for assessment questions

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

**A FORMER teacher is urging all Parkinson's sufferers in Bridgend county borough not to "fall foul" of potential Government cuts to disability benefits.**

After taking his fight to Westminster, he is also calling for sufferers to seek help from organised groups such as Parkinson's UK to ensure they are not caught out.

Alun Morgan (63), a former maths and IT teacher at Porthcawl Comprehensive School and the trustee for Wales at Parkinson's UK, who was diagnosed with the disease aged 49, has condemned the potential cuts as unfair on sufferers of a degenerative disease, as they can fluctuate from hour to hour, making it hard to find work.

He is calling for sufferers to fill in their new claim forms with somebody who may understand them better to ensure they don't miss out on their entitlement.

From April 8, 2013, the Government are replacing the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in a bid to cut costs and reform the system.

Inccapacity Benefits (IB) were replaced by the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) in 2008 to encourage people to find work.

However, Mr Morgan claiming the set questions don't relate to Parkinson's sufferers.

He explained to THE GEM: "This will affect Parkinson's sufferers. They will have to be assessed every year but this is a degenerative disease, so circumstances change so quickly.

"They don't ask questions on how I am, the standard questions don't apply to me. You can't really function at certain times of the day. Then there's questions like 'can you walk 50 metres on the flat?' Well, the Valleys aren't flat, so it's much more difficult."

Mr Morgan and Parkinson's UK went to the Labour Party Conference in Manchester to lobby MPs and put their point across. He then took a petition on behalf of Parkinson's UK to Westminster, signed by 12,000 sufferers and their carers.

Mr Morgan stated that Parkinson's UK was now waiting to see what assessment criteria will be used, and that they will advise people when this happens. In the mean time, he called for any



**LEFT TO RIGHT: Supporters Martin King and Baroness Gale with Steve Ford, chief executive of Parkinson's UK, and trustee for Wales, Alun Morgan from Bridgend.**

sufferers to contact their local branches.

He said: "If you are unsure, ask somebody who understands them to help you fill in your forms. You may answer questions incorrectly. We can help them.

"I helped a friend in Llanmaes fill his in, and he got the same on ESA as he did on IB. He wouldn't have if he had done them himself."

A spokesperson for the Department of Work and Pensions said that the first consultation stage sought views on the Government's proposals to replace DLA with a new benefit - PIP.

This will continue to be a non-means tested, extra costs benefit paid to people who are in and out

of work. It will help disabled people remove the barriers they face to leading full and independent lives.

The spokesperson said: "We are looking at the feedback received from the second consultation phase on the PIP assessment.

"We should have a sound assessment in place by the end of December.

"Nothing has, as yet, been agreed, but the test, once finalised, will ensure that people who need the support the most will receive the help they need, no matter what their incapacity."

Mr Morgan also wants more sufferers to come forward and join the Bridgend branch.

He said: "Parkinson's UK has given me a mission in life to show people that it isn't the end of their life.

"I've done so many things I didn't think I could, like speaking in the Houses of Commons and Lords and speaking to Michael Palin.

"They say one in 500 suffer with Parkinson's, so if there are 50,000 people in Bridgend that's 1,000 sufferers. Yet our membership is roughly 60 in Bridgend, around 20 in Maesteg and about 15 in Porthcawl. That's roughly 100 from 1,000.

"Some people don't go out, so we don't reach them. Some don't see a need in joining, but it changed my life. We are all positive people."

## Porthcawl's 'Davie' through to final of talent competition



**Porthcawl's Davie has progressed to the next round of a national talent competition.**

**PORThCAWL singer-songwriter Davie wowed the crowd and judging panel at the Open Mic UK Regional Showcase in Cardiff, and is now one step away from performing at The O2 Arena in London!**

Thousands of acts entered Open Mic UK 2012 and the best unsigned singers from across the country

were chosen to perform at the live Regional Final shows.

Davie performed in front of a live audience and professional judging panel at The Coal Exchange, Cardiff, on the October 20. She is now set to perform at the Area Final in Reading, for the chance to progress to the National Grand Final at The O2 in London on January 19, 2013.

The judges were pleased with her performance, commenting: "Lovely interpretation of the Maroon 5 song, really drove the hook line home. Very strong original (track), just need to drive home the hook of that song."

A previous winner, Birdy, has recently been a favourite on Radio 1 after signing with Warner Music with two hits singles already.

There's more than £50,000 in prizes up for grabs this year, and the overall winner gets significant investment. They'll also have the opportunity to tour the UK.

You can follow Davie on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube via the usual link: /DavieOfficial. For more information and tickets, go to: www.openmicuk.co.uk

Three acts from Barry - GEM paper-girl Carianne Rogers, four-piece boy band 'Back To November' and singer-songwriter Luke Brown are also through the the Area Final in Reading.

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 746.**

● The rollover, which now stands at £10,500 was won this week: 674998.

● £2000: 528208.

● £10: 480086; 615503; 184765; 874335; 132490; 908180; 509758; 609597; 361853; 332650; 157509.

● £5: 757650; 832847; 555005; 107368; 179435; 493912; 656548; 218234; 424931; 212120; 290921; 837920;

760015; 443534; 935280; 632933; 446753; 149506; 641837; 162785; 674341; 290762; 199318; 549745; 650351; 370456; 307858; 300802; 908279; 525055; 756958; 377089; 806723; 594701; 828552; 927398; 727880; 215409; 352036; 449693; 112620; 556845; 459066; 178461; 546245; 750891; 536820; 497814; 468146.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

## JAIL SENTENCE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Thomas also admitted charges of supplying cannabis, possessing the drug, and extracting electricity.

Judge Neil Bidder said Thomas was "top of the chain" and had "directed production on a commercial scale".

His partner, he added, was in no way naive and shared in substantial profits.

The judge said: "I don't consider I can avoid passing an immediate custodial sentence."

Thomas, he said, had made a "considered decision" to set up a cannabis factory.

"You researched it, bought the equipment, developed cannabis plants showing skill and care, and had the assistance of your partner, who was in it from the beginning.

"When the police searched the premises, two crops had already been sold."

He continued: "Both of you would have been able to live comfortably from the income."

It was, he said: "Professional crime for profit."

Mr James said that a

farmer, Haydn David, was moving cattle when dogs disturbed them.

He went to a farm at Rhiwceiliog in Pencoed, which was being rented by the defendant.

The front door was open and no one was there, so he called the police, who went in and discovered the cannabis factory.

It emerged, he said, that Thomas had been made bankrupt and set up the enterprise because of his difficult circumstances.

The police found 61 mature plants, heating equipment, and insulation, and the electricity meter had been bypassed.

The officer DC James Davies said: "It was small but well-organised and showed previous experience of such activities."

The couple at the time were staying in a hotel in Leicester, where they were arrested. In their room was found cannabis.

Mr James said the crop would have yielded 5.1 kilos, worth £51,100.

When interviewed, Thomas explained his bankruptcy and said he had made a profit of £14,000 - £16,000. The

cannabis, he said, sustained his lifestyle.

Desombre said she was aware of what was going on.

"Neither could have been more frank with the police," said Mr James.

They were said to have no previous convictions.

Nicholas Gareth Jones, for Thomas, said: "His problems began when the family business went through, and his father died.

"It deeply affected his personality. He took cannabis, got into debt, and started growing it and selling it to friends. Most of the profits paid off debts.

"He is utterly ashamed of his position and prison for him will be extremely difficult."

Jeremy Jenkins, for Desombre, said: "She has been under great pressure which has preyed upon her for a significant period. The operation was not on an international level.



# VALE BUILDING PROJECTS ARE IN THE FRAME FOR 'BEST OF BRITISH' AWARD



Pictured at the Wales Millennium Centre for the All Wales Building Excellence awards were, (left to right): Charles Hunter (Vale Council principal officer); Audrey Smith (PS Holdings); Marcus Goldsworthy; Coun Fred Johnson; Andrew Hodgson (Town and Counties); Chris Jones (LABC chairman); and Maria Webber (Vale Council technical and development officer).

## TWO building projects completed recently in the Vale are in the frame for a 'best in Britain award'.

The ninth Vale Council Building Control Group 'Building Excellence Awards' were held earlier this year at The Mount Sorrel Hotel, and two of the Vale winners have now triumphed at the All Wales Building Excellence awards, at a gala ceremony at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

The two winning Vale companies were Town and

Counties, for extension and alteration work at 133, Plymouth Road, Penarth, and PS Holdings, in the commercial projects section, for their work building Pier 64, the new restaurant at Penarth Marina.

Marcus Goldsworthy, the operational manager for development and building control at The Vale Council, said: "It is a marvellous achievement that projects from the Vale have won two categories at the all-Wales event – and I believe that these projects can also win at the national awards in London on November 13 – where they will be up against projects from councils throughout England and the rest of the UK".

Coun Fred Johnson, chairman of the council's planning committee, added: "The winning projects have shown the quality of building work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale and we are proud to be part of such an important national awards event.

"We continue to support the annual awards and would like to thank our sponsors, who enabled the event to take place.

"They were: Nina Estate Agents; ACD Skip Hire; JPL Sound; The GEM; and The Mount Sorrel Hotel."



LEFT: Town and Counties will be keeping their fingers crossed when they attend the national building excellence finals in London for their Penarth development.



RIGHT: The Pier 64 restaurant at Penarth Marina could be a UK-wide award winner at the national finals later this month.

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# Former rugby star hits £40,000 fundraising target for the Ty Hafan hospice



In costume for a charity video are Brynmor Williams (left) and Robert Jones.

**FORMER** Wales and British Lions rugby star turned broadcaster, Brynmor Williams, has achieved his goal of raising £40,000 for Ty Hafan hospice this year.

In February, Brynmor, a director of Thomas Carroll Group plc, set out on a mission to raise £40,000 – to commemorate the insurance group's 40th anniversary. As part of the fundraising effort, Brynmor, who lives in Cowbridge, stars in a new charity video as a 1970s-style action hero, in the character of 'Harry Lion', in the short film 'The Insurers – Mission for Ty Hafan'.

He also co-hosted a 40th birthday event at the Wales Millennium Centre, which pushed the total raised to £49,000. In the film, Brynmor and his fellow 'Insurers' attempt to deliver a briefcase containing money to the Millennium Stadium, despite the attentions of a mysterious enemy spy. He said: "It was great to see fellow directors abandoning their dignity, dressing up and acting for such an important cause. The video has cer-

tainly helped attract people to our charity page and spread awareness of our fundraising activities. I am pleased to have played my part in raising £49,000 for Ty Hafan."

Other fundraising events included a four-day 250-mile north to south Wales bike ride, the Three Peaks climb, and golfing events.

In a further example of his acting skills, Brynmor also appears in a second charity video with fellow rugby legend, Robert Jones MBE.

The two former scrum halves compare their

sporting records in a verbal sparring match titled 'Alas Bryn and Jones'.

Thomas Carroll was founded on October 1, 1972, in Cardiff by Evan Thomas and Terry Carroll and their respective wives, Anne and Delma.

The company now employs 110 people, with headquarters in Caerphilly and offices in Swansea and Brecon.

The film 'The Insurers – Mission for Ty Hafan' and 'Alas Bryn and Jones' can be viewed at: [www.thomascarroll.co.uk](http://www.thomascarroll.co.uk).

# Severn Barrage row rumbles on as an AM calls for local focus

**THE** row over proposals to build a barrage between Lavernock Point and Somerset has continued, with local AM Andrew RT Davies calling for the Welsh Government to conduct a comprehensive consultation with local residents.

Mr Davies said it was time to end the uncertainty faced by residents in recent years. He was speaking following a debate in the Senedd on renewable energy from the Severn Estuary.

He said: "We have heard a lot of discussion about the potential impact on the local environment, and of course the potential economic footprint that a project of this size could have in Wales."

"It is clear that we have an energy source of great potential on our doorstep with the Severn Barrage project. Time and time again proposals have come forward and each time nothing concrete has emerged."

"If the Welsh Government are serious about the project, there needs to be a proper consultation and discussion with locals, as well as clarity over the likely deadline for a final decision. We can't keep people waiting in limbo forever."

"They need to decide whether this project is financially viable and consider how much, if any, public money will be earmarked for it."

"What we don't want is a wave of publicity and a huge fanfare, only for residents to find out further down the line that the project is to be put in mothballs once again."

# Police hunt for Penarth burglars

**POLICE** are appealing for information following two burglaries at the Co-operative store on Windsor Road, Penarth.

At about 2am on Wednesday, October 24, two men forced entry into the premises via the front door.

A large quantity of cigarettes was stolen from the front kiosk before they made off.

At around 1am on Sunday October 28, the suspects returned, forced entry via the front doors of the shop and stole tobacco from the kiosk, before making off once again.

Anyone with informa-

tion is asked to contact Barry CID on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police say a 36-year-old Cardiff man has been arrested in connection with the two burglaries.

**Festive fayre** Marie Curie hospice, Penarth holds a Christmas fayre on Saturday, November 10, from 10.30am.

There will be an opportunity to buy Christmas cards, as well as Marie Curie merchandise, guess the weight of the cake, and a raffle.

# Roadworks report

**Temporary traffic control – Plassey Street, between Albert Road and Arcot Street, Penarth; Sully Moors Road/Hayes Road, Sully; Church Road, Barry.**

Intermittent temporary traffic control – Port Road, Barry at the junction with Pencoe Lane, 9.30am-3.30pm.

Temporary road closures from 5.30pm-9.30pm on November 5 for fireworks displays – Paget Road, between Harbour Road and its cul-de-sac near life-

guard station including the unnamed section of road adjacent to side of 10 Paget Road; Station Approach Road; Breaksea Drive from Adar y Mor to Station Approach Road; Friars Road from Station Approach Road to Paget Road, Barry.

Permit holders only at Westward Rise, Porth y Castell, Bron Awelon, Tan y Fron, Min y Mor, Pen y Bryn, Marine Drive, Trem y Don, Swyn y Mor, Cliffwood View, Bull Cliff Walk.

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# £500 donation powers up ValePlus charity



ABOVE: Cheque presentation, from left: Gemma, Rebecca, ValePlus director Steve Thomas, Aberthaw Power Station manager Phil Allen, ValePlus trustee Rob Hartery, and Chris.

## PACT meetings

**CADOC PACT,** Palmerton Community & Learning Centre, November 14 at 6pm.  
**GIBBONSDOWN PACT,** The Residents Board Office, Cychurch Rise on November 14 at 10.30am.  
**LLANDOUGH PACT,** Llandough Conservative Club on November 12 at 7pm.  
**SULLY PACT,** Jubilee Hall, Smithies Avenue, Sully on November 15 at 7pm.

**ABERTHAW Power Station** manager Phil Allen, recently presented a donation of £500 to Valeplus charity that provides educational, social and recreational day services for adults with learning disabilities in the Vale and Cardiff.

The donation will help to set up a new café at 5 High Street, Barry – Café No 5 – which will be opened to the public this month.

“As a local employer, we are really pleased to be able to support such a great venture and I’m sure many of our staff who live in the area will want to

call in for a drink and a cake once the café is open”, said Phil.

ValePlus has sessions open to those aged over-16 designed to help them achieve independence and employment. Up to 20 clients take part in the sessions in Barry each weekday and six attend a group in Llantwit Major on a Thursday and Friday.

“This is a fantastic donation and we are very grateful, as the refurbishment work in the café is mostly funded by ValePlus”, added Valeplus director Steve Thomas.

“The trainees will have an opportunity to put their skills into action as they work in the business.”

# SECRET BUNKER WHERE WATCHERS WAITED FOR WARTIME INVASION

**NINE** Penarth and district Ramblers met Pam and Krys for a local walk in the Cefn Onn area, and walking north up a railway cutting, passed the golf course and a ventilation shaft for the railway tunnel that lay ahead, which can only be accessed on foot.

In 1871, the Rhymney Railway provided a link to Cardiff Dock and in 1858 the Rhymney Caerphilly line ran through the 1,935 yard tunnel taking the railway underneath Caerphilly Mountain.

The small railway station Cefn Onn Halt was opened by the Great Western Railway to serve the surrounding wooded area, but was finally closed in September 1986, as the area had changed and grown with the M4 motorway and the vast amount of housing development nearby.

Going uphill along a bridleway

and passing a small stream, they joined a path through deciduous woodland and part of the 28-mile Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk to enjoy brilliant views over to Caerphilly Castle shrouded in mist that had still not burned off.

On continuing along the ridge and crossing road gates led into a field and then more woodland, from where a bridle path led downhill past ruined buildings into a small wooded valley.

Two footbridges over the stream were crossed in close succession at Coed Coesau eventually leading to a restored concrete bunker, built during World War Two to conceal a secret group known as the Auxiliary Unit, set up to relay vital information about the German invaders for counter attacks by the British.

A gradual climb uphill onto the ridge above the steep-sided Craig Lllysfaen meant brilliant views across the Bristol Channel, taking in Flat and Steep Holm and crossing the ridge clear views of the

Llanishen reservoirs and on to the Millennium Stadium and Cardiff Bay in the distance.

Passing the 264m trig point, the group joined Graig Road, following it downhill for a short while before a track leading past some houses saw them re-joining their initial path for the short trip back to Cefn Onn.

On November 4, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate/hard walk at Highmeadow Woods and the Wye Valley; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group please log onto [www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com](http://www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com). Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 255102.

JOY STRANGWARD

## £75 fixed fines in the Vale

**THE** local authority support company **XFOR** issued 54 fixed penalty notices in the Vale during the week commencing October 22.

XFOR has been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents in the Vale.

A council spokeswoman said: “They are taking a zero tolerance approach to environmental crimes, where offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75, without warning.”

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Up to 100" Drop	<b>£100 pair!!</b>	<b>£130 pair!!</b>	<b>£160 pair!!</b>	<b>£190 pair!!</b>	<b>£220 pair!!</b>
Up to 110" Drop	<b>£110 pair!!</b>	<b>£140 pair!!</b>	<b>£170 pair!!</b>	<b>£200 pair!!</b>	<b>£230 pair!!</b>

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## NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

# Primary school pupils get a glimpse of things to come

AT the start of October, Barry Comprehensive School welcomed almost 300 year-6 boys to an action-packed day to introduce them to the school.

The visitors enjoyed a crash course in making music with a junk band, African drums, rock school and an introduction to music technology.

The hospitality and catering department got everyone making pizza and gave lots of tips about kitchen hygiene and safety.

The science department took over the school hall to investigate different sources of energy that featured demonstrations, hands-on practicals and even a hovercraft!

The year-6 visitors, and their sixth form chaperones, had plenty of opportunities to burn off their own excess energy with dodgeball in the gym, golf in the sports hall, street dancing and drama improvisation.

Enjoying the fruits of their labour in hospitality and catering.



LEFT: The Rock School professionals encouraged year-6 to have a go at making their own music during an entertaining crash course.

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Watts & Morgan are pleased to introduce some exciting new changes to their successful Cowbridge Sales Department.

Rhys Gould, Head of Residential sales, leads our successful team. Rhys has been with the company for 5 1/2 years and lives locally in Llantwit Major. Richard Morgan, Partner, heads our successful Lettings Department, which continues to grow from strength to strength. Matthew Jones, Senior Associate, from Cowbridge, has over 13 years experience within the industry and Colwyn Treharne Jones, Consultant, has over 50 years experience as a Chartered Surveyor. We are also pleased to introduce two exciting additions to the team. Sam Dovey, from Peterston-Super-Ely, and Hannah Whitehouse, from Llandow, near Cowbridge, bring a wealth of experience, an enthusiastic sales approach and key local contacts to the team.

Through our proactive and dynamic sales approach, Watts & Morgan continue to enjoy success in selling properties throughout Cowbridge and the Vale. We would be delighted to offer you a free market appraisal and to show you how our proactive approach, is achieving successful results for our clients.

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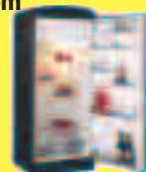
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'GOVERNMENT TARGETS NOT BEING MET' – SAY REGIONAL AM AND MP

# Conservative duo call for improved cancer treatment times in the Vale

**TWO Conservative politicians are angry that targets concerning the time taken to start cancer treatments weren't being met in the Vale.**

Both regional AM Andrew RT Davies and Vale MP Alun Cairns were "disappointed" that one in seven cancer patients starting urgent treatment in August were not seen within the Government's target time.

The Welsh Government's target is to treat 95 per cent within 62 days of being

diagnosed. Alun Cairns claims that target has not been met since First Minister Carwyn Jones took up his position.

According to them, during August 2012, 11 people in Cardiff and the Vale out of a total of 75, more than one in seven, were not treated within 62 days – 10 per cent below the target. Figures for June (three per cent) and July (14 per cent) also showed targets not being met.

Alun Cairns said: "I am so angry that people in the Vale and across Wales fail to receive the treatment they need

to battle cancer, within the time-frame that the Welsh Government has set. As we all know, getting treatment for cancer as soon as possible is critical. Long delays are frightening and only add to the strain, pressure and fear felt by patients and their families.

"Delays in treatment and the inaccessibility of cancer drugs for patients in the Vale is something that all too regularly crops up in my constituency surgeries."

Mr Davies, leader of the Welsh

Conservatives, added: "The fact is that these vital targets have not been met in Wales since the First Minister took up his post, and until they are we will be nowhere near the first-class treatment we deserve. Local residents need to have confidence in the health system upon which they rely.

"Right now, record Welsh Government cuts to NHS funding in Wales are putting huge pressure on beleaguered staff who are trying their utmost to deliver quality treatment and care. They, too, deserve better."

Dr Graham Shortland, Medical Director at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "We are committed to meeting cancer waiting times and are working hard on plans to address our current waits. Capacity issues in two areas, coupled with a rise in demand, have had an adverse impact on our waiting times.

"We are working on plans to tackle these issues, with some addi-

tional capacity due to come on stream in the next few weeks.

"We would like to apologise to any patient who is currently waiting to be seen for any undue distress caused.

"While we recognise that this failure to meet target is not acceptable, it's important to note that the 62-day target relates to patients who may have cancer but who, as yet, have no formal diagnosis.

"The UHB complies fully with the 31-day cancer treatment target, which applies to

patients who have been diagnosed with cancer."

• **A Welsh Government**

spokesperson told The GEM: "The number of patients involved in these statistics are relatively small and the interventions often complex, meaning small changes can affect the overall picture greatly.

"The large majority of patients are still seen within the target time.

"We continue to work closely with all health boards to

improve performance, concentrating on those patients waiting over 62 days.

"The Minister for Health and Social Services, Lesley Griffiths AM, has expressed to health board chairs her

strong wish to see improvements, and has raised the issue with them again this week.

"The Minister expects to see improvements early in 2013."

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

BYRON DAVIES  
SOUTH WALES WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER



byron.davies@wales.gov.uk

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**Pen y Fai, Bridgend**



## Opportunities evening

**FRIENDS of Belvedere Park are hosting an opportunities evening on Friday November 2 between 6.30pm and 8.30pm at Castleland Community Centre.**

There will be a treasure hunt, quiz with prizes and refreshments available.

Opportunities available include: all aspects of gardening from basic to advanced level, design and artwork for planted areas, helping with organising/running fundraising events and activities, publicity and promotion including opportunities to produce videos and digital promotional material, maintain Belvedere Park website, and any other support that you can give.

All welcome! For further information, contact Jean on 01446 403549.

JJ

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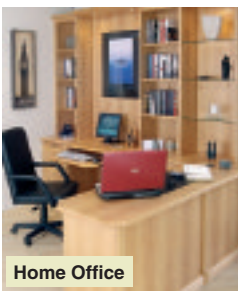
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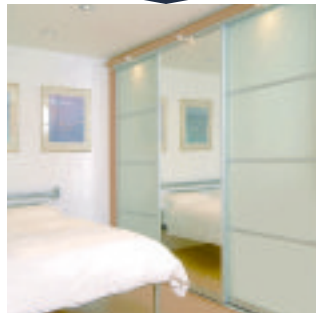
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## FOUR NEW SIGNINGS FOR OIL 4 WALES...

**I**NDEPENDENT oil distribution company Oil 4 Wales has added to its squad by signing up four of Wales' rugby stars as official ambassadors.

The oil brand for Wales has secured the support of Wales' current kicking coach Neil Jenkins, Wales international and Llanelli Scarlets hooker Ken Owens, and Wales international and Newport-Gwent Dragons flanker Dan Lydiate, as well as former international Dafydd Jones.

The new signings come as Oil 4 Wales's original ambassador, Shane Williams, takes time out from duties as he embarks on a season in Japan. Colin Owens, managing director of Oil 4 Wales, said: "Shane has been a fantastic ambassador for our company over the past year and it is great to see him already doing so well over in Japan."

"We are a very proud Welsh com-

pany, so it is great for us to have members of the Welsh rugby team on board, as they share the same passion for Wales as we do."

Dan Lydiate said: "Oil 4 Wales is passionate about Wales and is truly committed to serving the communities of Wales. It is a great company to be involved in - friendly, family run and with the Welsh community at its heart."

"They have already built an impressive client base and I look forward to working with them going forward as they continue with their exciting expansion plans."

*Oil 4 Wales is a family-run company, which was founded by entrepreneur Colin Owens, in 2011. The company, which supplies a range of fuel services to homes, businesses, commercial premises, agricultural and retail customers, has been well supported by those keen to see the success of a truly independent Welsh oil brand, and now supplies over 16,000 customers in Wales.*



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## Helping those with eating disorders

**A**pproximately 1.6 million people suffer from eating disorders in the UK.

Disorders like anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating can be an outlet for emotions such as anger, anxiety, depression and low self-esteem, often caused by a general inability to cope, psychological trauma, bereavement or difficult relationships. They can develop as coping mechanisms.

You can read more about this at: [www.afsfh.co.uk/members\\_sacress\\_press\\_releases.php](http://www.afsfh.co.uk/members_sacress_press_releases.php)

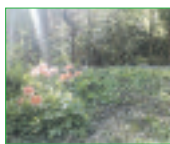
Cardiff Hypnotherapy Solutions helps clients

reduce anxiety, restoring perspective. Once under control, many of the troublesome symptoms can be alleviated, including unhelpful behaviours towards food.

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restore motivation, confidence and self-esteem and rediscover their healthy relationship with food.

For more details, see [www.cardiffhypnotherapy.com](http://www.cardiffhypnotherapy.com); or call Sue on 07795 964066.



Contact **Sue Pitman** HPD, DHP, MNCH (Reg) on **07795 964066 / 029 20654893**

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## In Business Update

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

**EVEN IN AFRICA...**

**Richard can't stop caring for his foster kids!**

**C**AROLINE ALLEN, a mum of three, and a foster carer with Action for Children, loves fostering, even though she has enough reason to keep clear of a hectic household of children at the moment.

For Caroline's husband, Richard, is working abroad in Tanzania, East Africa - but despite this, he always makes time to speak with his

family via the internet.

There is no stopping him and Caroline continuing to give vulnerable youngsters a home, wherever he may be based.

"It just feels right to open up your home to children," explains Caroline. "Even though Richard is away a lot of the time, I can cope because I get brilliant support from Action for Children."

To find out more about becoming a foster carer with Action for Children, call 01633 270 422.



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## HR MEDIA Productions

**H**R MEDIA Productions is a visual media company based in south Wales that offers professional quality video production and photography at affordable prices.

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## Festive way to support school

**Cowbridge Comprehensive School's Annual PTA CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Looking for some unique Christmas Presents? Look no further - come to our annual Christmas Market. Over 60 stalls selling, unique & hand crafted gifts such as ceramics, prints, jewellery, accessories, cards & books.

Refreshments include: mulled wine, home made mince pies, hot food & drinks.

**Sunday, 11 November, 10.30am - 3.30pm**  
**Cowbridge Comprehensive School,**  
Aberthir Road, Cowbridge CF71 7EN.  
(If you would like a stall to sell your goods please email: [mandyterry@aol.com](mailto:mandyterry@aol.com) or call 07979 148939)

**C**OME to our popular Cowbridge Comprehensive Christmas market and enjoy a few hours of festive shopping, while also supporting the school.

Now with over 70 stalls full of fabulous, unique and interesting gift ideas.

Hot and cold refreshments include home-made mince pies and mulled wine, bacon sandwiches, Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

No admission fee.

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Set in the beautiful Afan Valley in

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For your chance to redeem this fantastic offer, simply mention this voucher when booking your weekend and present upon arrival.

Normally £199.99, the package is £149.99 with this voucher. Call 07708 964032 or email: [info@forcesfitness.com](mailto:info@forcesfitness.com) for more information.

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Voucher not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. Places must be booked and paid for in advance. Applicants must complete a health questionnaire.

**FORCES FITNESS** are also offering a week of **FREE BOOTCAMP SESSIONS** in Cowbridge, Bridgend, Neath and Port Talbot. Get in touch for more info!

## Cost-efficient inheritance tax planning is our aim

**F**URTHER to previous articles concerning tax-efficient business protection, and the EU Gender directive 21/12/2012, which will re-shape the pricing of Life

assurance of annuities, I have recently attended forums regarding the costs associated to inheritance tax planning.

Some institutions are charging hundreds of pounds per month when it can be arranged at a

fraction of the cost. D.P.T. Financial Solutions can offer you this solution, if appropriate to your circumstances.

If your estate is above the nil rate band of £325,000, it could be liable to a 40 per cent tax charge on death.

Also, gifts via the potentially exempt transfer rules can be utilised in two years, rather than seven years in certain circumstances.

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Please contact Daniel Thomas on mobile 07771 888729; office 01443 229589.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



# In Business Update




## Minister checks on benefits of new broadband service

Donal Whelan shows Stephen Crabb and Simon Mawer how ultrafast internet is improving his home-based business in St Hilary.

**S**T HILARY found itself at the heart of the Welsh broadband debate last week when Wales Office Minister Stephen Crabb visited on a fact finding mission to see how Welsh businesses can take advantage of access to high-speed broadband.

Mr Crabb accompanied Simon Mawer, the managing director of Welsh broadband provider Konek-T, to the St Hilary home of Donal Whelan, one of the first people to take



up their superfast broadband.

Mr Whelan runs his own music mastering business, Hafod Mastering, from his home in the village and relies on the internet for his work.

Mr Crabb said: "Improving Wales'

communications infrastructure is vital to grow our economy and compete on a global scale.

"Having access to ultrafast broadband will let businesses expand and develop new markets, creating the jobs we need.

"It will also allow rural Welsh communities to access public services more quickly and efficiently online."

Mr Crabb also visited the Arqiva St Hilary Transmission Tower, where Konek-T's technology is based.



### Konek-T

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**Want to sign up to Netflix or LoveFilm but don't have the broadband capability?**

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\*subject to BSS grant approval

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### London firm appoints Vale solicitor

**TOP-RANKED**  
London law firm TV Edwards has appointed a family solicitor to offer a local service in the Vale.

Consultant Hayley Brain is looking forward to the new venture:

"I have specialised in this area throughout my career, covering the range of issues associated with divorce and separation, including financial matters, child law and domestic violence.

"My objective is to help clients through a difficult time, giving clear advice and an efficient service, while always trying to minimise animosity, focussing on the needs of any children.

"The support of TV Edwards means I have access to their excellent training, IT infrastructure and resources, leaving me free to concentrate on getting the best result for my clients."

For confidential advice, contact Hayley on 07539 339888.

### Fee waived to support Will Aid

**B**RIDGEND Solicitors, Anthony and Jarvie, are pleased to support Will Aid; throughout November, we will be waiving our usual fee for a basic will in return for a donation to Will Aid.

Our experienced team invites anyone thinking of making a will, or updating an existing will, to contact them.

Will Aid clients will also be able to take advantage of our offer to draw up a Lasting Power of Attorney, with a reduction of 20% on our usual fee.

For further information, or to make an appointment, contact Katherine Kemp on [kkemp@anthonyandjarvie.co.uk](mailto:kkemp@anthonyandjarvie.co.uk), David Morrish on [dmorrish@anthonyandjarvie.co.uk](mailto:dmorrish@anthonyandjarvie.co.uk) or telephone 01656 652737.

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## MAKE YOUR WILL, FOR PEACE OF MIND

**A** Will is often one of those things we all mean to 'sort out'

but very often is left undone.

Nonetheless, it is a vital document to have in place – to give

peace of mind; to ensure that the people we want to benefit at the time of death actually benefit; to

bequeath a legacy to a friend or a charity.

Actually, making a Will is a very straightforward process.

Alternatively, you may have already made your Will, but are wondering if it is still appropriate for your requirements.

Perhaps you need to appoint guardians for your children, or you now have grandchildren, or you have recently benefited from a legacy yourself, which may increase the value of your estate.

You may simply feel that your current Will no longer fulfils your wishes.

For advice or assistance on any of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact Glamorgan Law LLP at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge 01446 771742. This firm will be participating in the Will Aid scheme for the month of November.



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# Local charity steps in to tackle prostate disease with new laser equipment

**A** WELSH charity that began life in Cowbridge, has stepped forward once again to pay for a high-tech machine that can make a huge difference to men

with prostate disease.

It was eight years ago that the GLAZE Charity Trust raised the money to buy a Green Light Laser machine for the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, and the charity has been supporting its upkeep and running costs ever

since. More than 1,100 men have been treated with the laser technology and the hospital's urological department is now the leading training unit of its kind in UK.

GLAZE, which is an integral part of Prostate Cymru Charity Trust, said support from companies and donations

from individuals had been crucial in providing the additional £106,000 required to ensure the continuance of the Green Light Laser Treatment.

The new Green light laser XPS system delivers laser energy to the prostate and removes prostate tissue that is causing obstruction.

Patients stay in hospital for about a day after treatment, as opposed to up to four days with a more standard procedure.

Prostate Cymru and Glaze founder and trustee, Ray Murray, said: "Prostate disease, both malignant and benign, is the most common form of disease diagnosed in Welsh men.

"Our charities want to ensure that we have the most modern and successful equipment available, as well as highly-trained surgeons.

"We are tremendously grateful for the support we have received from companies in Wales, and from people who have raised money on our behalf through sponsorships and other activities.

"Companies such as

Rockwool, Tata Steel and GE Aviation, have been really supportive. We have held prostate disease awareness days on many firms' premises – and so our relationship is proving mutually beneficial."

Andy Thomas, who is a senior urology consultant at the Princess of Wales Hospital, said: "I am truly thankful to GLAZE, Prostate Cymru and its supporters for facilitating the purchase of the new third Generation Green light laser system for the Princess of Wales Hospital.

"We have been using this laser in the recent European trial of Green light versus another established system.

"The increased power and speed of the new laser has proven to be a great advance over the one we used previously.

"The hospital offers the only NHS Green light laser in service in Wales. With the increasing cost pressures being borne by the NHS, it was likely that this service would have been lost, as funds may not have been found to purchase the new laser.



ABOVE (left to right): Ray Murray, Tim Vincent (senior technical consultant at Rockwool), and Andy Thomas.

"Thanks to GLAZE, this threat has been removed and Welsh men now still have the opportunity to undergo safe day case surgery to treat benign prostate conditions."

Mr Murray added, "Prostate Cymru is now seeking to raise funds for a Robotic Laparoscopic Surgical System.

"This kind of precise and minimally invasive surgery is widely available in Europe and

North America, but not in Wales. There are nearly 40 robotic surgical machines in England, where this surgery is free on the NHS, but not a single one in Wales.

"So, if a man in Wales wishes to have robotic surgery, the chances are that he will have to pay privately for treatment in an English hospital, at a cost of up to £15,000.

"We are aiming to raise £1.7 million for

the first machine in Wales by our 'Operation Robot' campaign.

"It's an ambitious target but we are planning some very big fund-raising initiatives.

"We need all the support we can get, so we'd be delighted to hear from anyone out there who can help us achieve this important objective."

For more information, go to [www.prostatecymru.com](http://www.prostatecymru.com)

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# Prepare your Home for Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT

## New Government scheme could warm your home in time for Christmas



ABOVE: Environment Minister, John Griffiths and Citizens Advice policy director, Teresa Perchard at the launch of Big Energy Savings Week

**ONE** thing any home-owner can do as Christmas approaches is check if money is being wasted on heating bills.

That's why it is a good idea to look at a new Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) scheme, that is making £13 million available for this very purpose.

The Environment Minister, John Griffiths said the money will be divided between two fuel poverty schemes, 'Nest' and 'Arbed', both of which target investment at those people most in need of help.

Speaking at the launch of Big Energy Savings Week at the Bridgend shopping outlet, McArthurGlen, he said: "Rising energy costs and the current economic conditions mean that too many people in Wales are becoming vulnerable to fuel poverty."

"The Welsh Government is committed taking action to tackle this issue, and that is why Nest, our fuel poverty scheme, targets investment at those people most at risk."

"Latest figures show that since April 2011, Nest has provided advice and support to more than 15,000 households to help them reduce their bills, and has funded energy-

saving improvement in around 5,600 homes.

"These improvement packages really do make a difference, resulting in an average saving of £500 per household, so I am delighted that we have been able to allocate significant additional money to such a beneficial scheme."

"The £13m will be shared between Nest and our strategic energy scheme, Arbed, which in its first phase helped to make 6,000 homes in some of Wales poorest areas more energy efficient."

"We are now moving into Arbed's second phase and expect it to benefit a further 5,000 homes plus by 2016."

"Both Nest and Arbed make a genuine difference to the quality of life of Welsh householders, resulting in warmer homes and reduced fuel bills, and I am delighted that we are able to maintain our investment in tackling fuel poverty at this economically difficult time."

Finance Minister, Jane Hutt said: "The additional £10million to improve domestic energy will make a real difference, ensuring warmer homes and more manageable fuel bills for many of Wales' less well off householders."

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### Painted furniture: Stunning results!

**G**REAT news for anyone considering having their furniture painted – local decorator Sara Llewellyn is back in business and looking forward to a busy autumn.

She specialises in hand-painted finishes applied to anything needing a facelift, namely old or new furniture, fitted or freestanding.

Her transformations create stunning results, whether it be a small chest of drawers or a complete kitchen revamp, no project is too small.

As a specialist painter and gilder, Sara offers a bespoke affordable service to her clients, and often works with interior designers.

**Simply call to arrange a free estimate and to discuss your project on 07887 651598 or 01446 796142**

### Specialist Furniture Painter Transformation & Restoration Kitchen Cabinets Hand painted



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Call Sara Llewellyn for your Free Estimate

### Make your home look its best with Modern Decorations

**G**ET ready to make your home cosy this winter with Modern Decorations' personal touch.

Whether you want to give a room a fresh look with new curtains or blinds, or find something to suit an existing colour scheme, Modern Decorations have what you are looking for.

Geoff Brown has over 30 years' experience in advising on and supplying curtains and blinds to both the domestic and contract market.

He can call at a customer's home or place of work at their convenience and offers the full service of measuring, make up and fitting without customers having to spend time shopping around.

He has a wide range of fabric samples and colours with amazing textures to suit any room, and estimates are free with no obligation and all requirements can be accommodated – order now and be fitted in time for Christmas.

Telephone Geoff on 01446 739174 or 07718 53838 – and get your home looking its best.

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**D**ID you know that to be able to claim that a product is made in Britain less than 15 per cent of its production has to have taken place in the United Kingdom?

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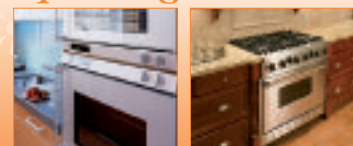
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- We also clean hobs, extractors, Ranges/Agas, microwaves and BBQ's.



# NEWS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM AT YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

## PUPILS VISIT IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM FOR HANDS-ON WORLD WAR ONE STUDY



ON October 5, the year-11 GCSE history class travelled to London to visit the Imperial War Museum.

During this term, pupils will be completing their controlled assessment on the First World War. They took part in a workshop on interpretations of the First World War led by the museum's experts.

This gave pupils the perfect opportunity to develop their research, interrogation and analysis skills through studying a number of original artifacts.

We also had the opportunity to visit galleries based on the theme 'war' at the museum.

### Technology project exhibition

It was a pleasure to see year-13 pupil Ioan Williams' AS design technology work being displayed as part of the WJEC Innovation Awards Exhibition. The exhibition was held in Cardiff and Llandudno earlier this month.

### Eco news

IN October, a whole school electrical equipment recycling event was held at the school.

The event was under the supervision of the A-level business class. Pupils and staff filled a lorry with electrical equipment to recycle. This event takes us one step closer to becoming an Eco School this year.

Pupils publicised the day by colourful posters and pamphlets, presentations in the school assemblies and by speaking to staff and pupils. There was a positive response from many pupils, parents and staff and we are waiting to hear whether or not we have collected enough equipment to win a prize.

### Head pupils

CONGRATULATIONS to Wil and Hannah Owen on being chosen as

head boy and head girl for this academic year.

They will be assisted by Ioan Williams and Nia Spilsbury.

### Open evening

A **HIGHLY** successful open evening was held on Wednesday, October 17, with more than 300 visitors to the school.

We were delighted to extend a warm welcome to parents, friends and prospective pupils and parents.

Visitors enjoyed a variety of activities including an impressive gymnastics display, exciting science experiments, a short drama production and a chance to sample some of the refreshments now available in the new school coffee shop.

### A very special evening!

AN exciting opportunity to experience some of the learning activities on offer to year-7 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg was an integral part of a recent parents' evening.

Parents often contact the school to ask for constructive and practical advice on how to help their children with their work and in response to this, a series of interactive workshops were held to provide the necessary guidance for parents to help their children with their learning in secondary school.

It was a resounding success, with parents choosing between four workshops: 'Safe Surfing' (using the internet safely), 'Read On!' (encouraging your child to read), 'How to use the school diary?' and 'Assessments', reports and targets make sense – as well as discussing progress with form tutors. MT

**PICTURED RIGHT:**  
Wil Owen, Nia Spilsbury,  
Hannah Owen, and Ioan  
Williams.



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# AIR CADETS' MOVING VISIT TO WORLD WAR ONE GRAVES

**SIX Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, Adam Wood, Megan Palmer-Wood, Carl Chaplin, Charles Adams, Megan Hamblin and Geraint Franklin, recently travelled to Europe to pay homage to those who lost their lives fighting for their countries in the great wars.**

The visit encompassed the war memorials and battlefields of Ypres Salient, in Belgium and those of the Somme, in France.

The cadets stayed as guests of the Belgium Army in Ypres and during their time were able to witness members of the local Fire Brigade performing the moving 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate.

As a sign of the greatest respect, Cadet Megan Hamblin laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the Squadron.

Cadet Adam Wood said: "We also went to Dunkirk to see where the evacuations took place. When you stand on the beach, it's amazing to think that in May 1940 all those people came in all sorts of boats, big and small to save the

Servicemen and to try to get them home."

The cadets are fully aware of the consequences for war for every nation involved and they also made time to pay their respects at the Canadian War Memorial, Vimy Ridge, 38th Welsh Division Memorial, Mametz Wood and the memorial at Thiepval, which is dedicated to the 73,367 missing men of the Somme.

The cadets also paid their respects to the war dead at the cemeteries in Tyne Cot, Passchendaele, and Langemark.

Officer Commanding 372 Squadron, Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, concluded: "It was a very busy few days with an enormous amount of travelling. However, the cadets all felt that it was a worthwhile and emotional experience."

"Seeing the battlefields and memorials at first hand brings history closer to our present and not just left in the past. The men who died for their countries will not be forgotten by these cadets."

"The visit would not have taken place without the support of the Big Lottery, which provided a grant towards transport costs."

JASON HORTON



No 2 Canadian Cemetery at Vimy Ridge.



Keiren Long in deep thought.

## WHAT'S ON/in brief

### Church lunches

**LADIES** of the parish of All Saints Church, Barry, affectionately known as the 'Soup Gang', have organised another series of autumn lunches on November 1, 8, 15, 22.

They take place in the church hall at the rear of the church from 12noon. Selection of soups with bread roll, pudding with custard or cream, followed by tea or coffee. Payment on the door £5. All proceeds in aid of the the All Saints organ appeal.

### Church fayre

**THE St Paul's Church Hall, Barry, fayre takes place this Saturday, November 3, at 2pm, packed with goods all at low prices. Stalls include Christmas gifts.**

Admission for children is free (adults 50p). All proceeds are in aid of church funds.

### Autumn fayre

**THIS Saturday, November 3, the Children's Society holds its autumn fayre in the Paget Roms, Penarth, from 10am-12noon.**

Admission 50p, including coffeetea and biscuits. All welcome.

## Short film warns of the dangers of illegal fireworks

**SOUTH Wales and Mid and West Fire and Rescue Service have launched their fireworks safety campaign with a 'Pay the Price' short film, illustrating the consequences of using illegal fireworks.**

It supports their zero tolerance approach of the sale of illegal fireworks.

They are working with their partners throughout Wales to promote a range of safety messages during the bonfire period this year.

The main objective is to stop members of the public from purchasing illegal fireworks and encourage everyone to attend official and organised bonfire and fireworks events for a safe and enjoyable evening.

The video is available to download from their websites, and also via the SWFRS Fire Crime Unit App. This is the first Fire and Rescue Service App in the UK and is completely free to download.

Last year, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service seized more than half a ton and in excess of £10,000 worth of illegal fireworks. It

points out that these illegal fireworks are often sold on to the public at a lower price than the shops and supermarkets.

Not only are these fireworks extremely dangerous and capable of causing serious injury, they are often imported from abroad and do not conform to British Standards. They are also stored by unlicensed vendors and cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds each year.

Head of Fire Crime Unit at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Garry Davies, said: "Illegal fireworks can be highly dangerous as they have not been through the same safety checks as legal fireworks and do not conform to British Standards. The 'Pay the Price' film will show the devastating effects illegal fireworks can have on the user and those around them."

"Even when using legal fireworks at private parties, this can still be dangerous if the fireworks code is not followed properly."

"We urge members of the public to stay safe this fireworks night and attend an official organised display, which are a lot safer."

# EXTENDED sale half price offers

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# YOUNG AND OLD REVEL IN THE FUN OF COWBRIDGE FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

COWBRIDGE Food and Drink Festival continues to be a shining beacon for all that is good in Welsh cuisine.

One of the features of the day was that it is not just adult 'foodies' who are attracted to the event, lots of children are keen to see the huge variety of products on offer.

Photographer Glyn Evans captured people of all generations enjoying the friendly atmosphere, and the 'homage' to food and drink!



ABOVE: Pedal power made smoothies at the festival!





# Thousands of people converge on Cowbridge for good food and drink!

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS



**THE Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival again showcased its growing popularity over the weekend, as thousands poured into the town to indulge in culinary delights.**

Being new to The GEM, it was this writer's first sojourn to the festival, so I was excited to discover what was on offer.

The sights and smells adorning the tables and counters were a treasure trove, with the finest cuts of meat, golden pie crusts, wild and wacky cheeses, sharp and bitter ales, and sweet treats begging to be purchased.

The craft and fringe sights offered much to browse, including the fledgling Cowbridge Radio team providing live music throughout the two days.

The former attraction showcased plenty of hand-made arts and crafts for the most forward-thinking of Christmas shoppers, while those selling hats, scarves and gloves probably got quite a bit of trade from visitors who may have come unprepared for the sharp temperatures.

The weather was kinder on the Saturday, and as a result it was the busier of the two days.

The crowds wandered the attractions enjoying themselves with smiles on their faces and a happy atmosphere.

Sunday was greeted by dark clouds and misty skies, but the weather held off for a while, meaning early visitors managed to avoid the downpours.

The stall holders were again in fine spirits despite a long day on Saturday, and were quick to point out to visitors the delights to keep an eye out for.

One companion relied on a cup of mulled wine to keep her blood flowing, and was unprepared for the alcoholic strength of the brew!

Organisers were jubilant with how things went. Festival chairman

John Davies said: "We were delighted with yet another fantastic event with a great atmosphere in the town throughout the weekend."

"The attendances have been increasing year on year – we had 14,000 people in 2011, and although not quite matching those record numbers this year everyone seemed to have a great weekend."

"The weather always plays a part in visitor numbers and Saturday's bright and sunny conditions saw a record amount of visitors through the gate."

"Sunday was a much wetter affair, but that left more room for seasoned festival-goers to browse the stalls."

"We had great feedback from visitors and exhibitors. It's been a difficult 12 months for many small producers who have been hit by problems with the weather and the economy, but a bumper festival weekend goes some way to helping them get back on track."

"I'd also like to extend thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's event such a success."

Vale AM Jane Hutt also popped in to see the fruits of the county's producers, and she commented: "It was great to hear the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones praise the town of Cowbridge last week in the Senedd, for its thriving High Street, strengthened by events like the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival."

A spokeswoman for the British Heart Foundation thanked The GEM for its help in fundraising over the weekend.

She said: "Thank you so much on behalf of British Heart Foundation for giving us the opportunity to be at The Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival at the weekend – we had a great time!"

"We all worked very hard and are so very grateful. We took £750 on Saturday and have yet to count Sunday's money."



Photographs by  
**MIKE WILCOCK**





# Crowds flock to Cowbridge as the food and drink festival becomes a 'must' destination

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased  
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e-mail [ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk)

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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,  
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

AS usual, there was something for everyone at the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink.

For cooks who were keen to improve their technique, there were demonstrations from professional chefs.

Elsewhere, there were wine tastings, entertainment for young and old, and enough mouth-watering food to set any diet back six weeks!



TV presenter Frances Donovan introduced the chefs who were demonstrating their skills to appreciative audiences.



ABOVE, ABOVE RIGHT, and BELOW: Traders were tempting festival-goers with a wide variety of dishes.





# Cowbridge's gourmet festival gives visitors a taste of the best that Wales has to offer!

COWBRIDGE is getting its breath back after another hectic weekend as, once again, it became the centre of the culinary world in Wales.

One look at the crowd (right) enjoying the entertainment in the champagne marquee shows what an enjoyable event it was – whether your taste was for gourmet food, real ale, or fine wine.

With more areas of the town involved than ever before, it just keeps getting better and better.!

Photographs by  
**MIKE WILCOCK**



BELOW: Lucy Owen with members of the British Heart Foundation, which was the festival's official charity.

BELOW: The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Nicola Thomas, and her consort, Coun Andrea Burges (left) held a drinks reception in the Mayor's Parlour.



ABOVE: Jan Chapman of The GEM with specially made shopping bags.





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# Porthcawl reflects on a successful festival day as the 'Splash-Up' attracts the crowds

Photographs by  
**KEITH E MORGAN**

PORThCAWL residents have been full of praise for the recent 'Splash-Up' festival which meant that the last sunny Saturday before the clocks went back saw the town packed with revellers.

Comments on message boards and social networking sites have been favourable, and locals have commented on the party atmosphere that gave the town a real boost.

The GEM featured photographs of the event last week, but we are delighted to include these images, taken by Keith E Morgan.

**RIGHT:** Porthcawl and District Art Society displayed members' paintings in the John Street sunshine.

**BELOW:**  
Open-top bus tours proved popular.



**ABOVE:** There was a chance to learn some circus skills, as demonstrated by this tyro tightrope walker!



**ABOVE:** Bands played on the promenade, and also at the bandstand in John Street.



**ABOVE:** There was a welcome on the 'Christian Surfers' stall.



## Cornelly councillor handed the MBE at Windsor Castle



**CORNELLY** councillor Jefferson Tildesley attended an Investiture recently at Windsor Castle, performed by Prince Charles.

Coun Tildesley was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2012 for 'Services to local Government and to the community of Bridgend'.

The Queen had returned from her summer holiday at Balmoral the previous day, but

unfortunately had to pull out of the Investiture with a bad back.

Prince Charles was flown down from Scotland at the last minute to undertake the Investiture on behalf of Her Majesty.

The photograph shows Jeff with the Prince during a discussion about Bridgend and the Prince's visits there, the last one of which was during Jeff's term of office as Mayor of BCBC.

KEM 57 per cent.

## BRIDGE RESULTS

**COWBRIDGE** and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian) results for October 23:

1. Barbara and Colin Easterbrook 60 per cent; 2. Pam Higgs and Sylvia Phillips 59 per cent; 3. Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker 58 per cent; 4. Ann Miller and Judy Springett 57 per cent.

AH

## Title joy for Wayfarers

THE Southerndown Golf Club ESP Wayfarers (Handicaps between 10 and 18) have won their league this year playing 12 games and winning eight.

The team were unbeaten on the hallowed home soil of the Ogmores Downs.

However, the key to their success was that they could always field a strong team away from home, where they always picked up valuable away points.

### UNBEATABLE

In one of the toughest leagues in south Wales, which included local rivals Pyle and Kenfig, St Mary's and Brynhill, the triumphant Southerndown team proved to be insurmountable to all opponents and won the league with a margin

of three points.

The team has now been promoted to the Premier League next season which includes all of this year's champions from the other leagues.

There were many notable individual performances this year with Paul Rees (ex-Bridgend Athletic RFC stalwart) proving himself to be the best Wayfarer in Wales by winning the annual Wayfarers Charity Day in August at Pontypridd.

The organisational driving force of the cherished secretary and treasurer Brian O'Hare proved to be a paramount in keeping the all-conquering squad together and turning up at the correct venues.

JC



# New war memorial for Cefn Cribwr

**CONSTRUCTION** of the new war memorial for Cefn Cribwr is well under way and work should be completed in time for the Armistice and Remembrance Service on Sunday, November 11.

The new memorial is sited on Mynydd Bach Common at the junction of Ty Fry Road and the main B4281 Cefn Road. It lies between the Farmers Arms and the children's play area.

It bears the names of all those who gave their lives for their country during The Great War of 1914-1918 and the Second World War of 1939-1945. It is engraved with the simple message: 'We Will Remember Them'.

Initiated and driven by Cefn Cribwr Community Council, the new memorial has been funded by the council, Bridgend County Borough Council, grant funding and private donations. It takes the form of a Celtic Cross, designed by Welsh artist Naomi Leake, and is engraved around the base with poppies and doves; an idea put forward by year-6 children of Cefn Cribwr Primary School.

It will replace the existing memorial, which is located in the bus shelter alongside the British Legion Headquarters at the junction of Bedford Road and Cefn Road, and carries four additional names to those previously commemorated.

The plaques from the original memorial are to be preserved.

The new memorial carries 15 names of those who perished during The Great War and 14 from the Second World War. Mrs Ceri Griffiths of Cefn Cribwr is currently preparing a booklet that honours these war dead.

The provisional title is: 'We Will Remember Them', and is to be published in the near future by the community council.

Ceri is searching for information and photographs concerning each person whose name is engraved on the tablets.

If you can help in any way, contact Mrs Griffiths on 01656 740526, e-mail: ceriwin@talk21.com, or at Ty Llôn, John Street, Cefn Cribwr, CF32 0AD.

Should you have photographs you might not want to part with, she will arrange for GEM photographer Keith E Morgan to call and copy them in situ at your home.

Words and pictures by KEITH E MORGAN



The inscriptions on the memorial bear the names of the fallen in the two World Wars.



The new war memorial on Mynydd Bach Common, Cefn Cribwr.



The 'bus shelter' war memorial in Cefn Cribwr.

## Nearly-new sale for NCT

**THE NCT Vale and Valley branch will hold a nearly-new sale at Bryntirion Comprehensive School, Merlin Crescent, Bridgend, CF31 4QR, on Saturday November 10, at 11am-12.30pm.**

Entrance/suggested donation £1/family. Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 to pre-register by Wednesday, November 7 (and for details of what can/can't be sold) or email: nctnearlynewsales@live.co.uk.

Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. Non-members

welcome to buy and sell Helpers are required!

The event is in aid of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch (formerly Bridgend, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major). It is raising funds to train four breastfeeding counsellors and an antenatal teacher.

It offers information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood, and aims to give every parent the chance to make informed choices. The aim is to ensure that services, activities and membership are fully accessible to everyone. Donations welcome.

## College learndirect team win top education award



Bridgend College learndirect team (left to right): Ian Rees (learndirect co-ordinator), Sian Cooks (learndirect supervisor), Lindsey Kent (learndirect supervisor) and David Mather (learning resource centre manager)

BRIDGEND College has announced that its learndirect team won the 'learner engagement award for 2011/12' at the learndirect awards ceremony in Llandrindod Wells recently.

"The team has achieved the highest percentage of learners per head of the

population in Wales, and this award recognises the hard work and dedication of the team not only to college learners, but also to the thousands of learners in partnership venues across the borough," a spokeswoman said.

## YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...



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### Another PCSO departs

**JON HOWE**, our other popular PCSO, is joining Nerys Lloyd in leaving the area, to become a PC with South Wales Police.

Jon has been the local PCSO for the villages of Kenfig Hill, Pyle and Cefn Cribwr for the past six-and-a-half years, during which time he has worked extremely hard to make it a safer and more pleasant place to live.

He has tackled the job with enthusiasm and total commitment and is very approachable and one who goes out of his way to help people, young or old.

However, although it is sad that we are losing this capable officer, I am sure that you would join me in wishing him good luck in the next stage of his police career, and who knows – maybe one day he will return to join our Neighbourhood Police team.

### Wellbeing centre

**ACTIVITIES** being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Wednesday, November 7 include:

Alzheimer's Talk, 'Advocacy with Dawn', from 2.30pm-3.30 pm; music group from 3pm-4pm. There will also be a social afternoon, with coffee; everyone welcome.

**Mynydd Cynffig Junior School CONGRATULATIONS** to the following pupils, who were nominated for impressing the staff last week:

Callum Baker – Class 1, Lewis Macleod – Class 2, Emily Cox – Class 3, Ellie Griffiths – Class 4, Ebony Rees – Class 5, Erin Fallon – Class 6 and Calvin Gorringer – Class 7. The headteachers' award went to Isabelle Anderson – Class 2.

The following pupils joined Mr Davies for lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standards of behaviour last week: Chloe Parry, Mia Lunn, Joshua Urch, Lauren Howe, Ffion Clarke, Ola Kruk, George Buckley, Olivia Davies, Mark Underhill and Todd Hind.

**Noah's Ark Zoo Farm** – As part of their science and environmental studies, the school has planned a visit to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm in Bristol for Pupils from classes 5, 6 and 7 on Tuesday November 6.

### Firework display

**A FREE community bonfire and fire-**



PCSO Jon Howe, who is leaving the area to become a PC with South Wales Police.

**works display will be held in the Park Street Allotment on November 3, starting at 7pm.**

This will be accompanied by a free barbecue. Everyone welcome.

### Hallowe'en party

**HALO'S Hallowe'en party** will be held at the Bridgend Recreation Centre on Saturday November 3 between 6pm and 8pm.

The pool will be turned blood red and there will be lights, music and floats. For further information, call 0300 012 1223, select option 1, or ask at the reception.

### Healing the Wounds

**BETHEL Community Church** welcomes everyone to an evening with the 'Blessed Ladies Singing Group' at their centre in Pwllgath Street, Kenfig Hill on Sunday November 11 at 6pm.

A collection will be taken in aid of the Welsh Charity Healing the Wounds, which supports veterans from the Armed Forces and ex-services suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

### Scouts and Guides

**KENFIG HILL Scouts and Guides** are holding a concert in the Cornelly Community Hall on Saturday, November 10 at 7pm.

The evening will feature the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir as well as the Da Capo Children's Choir. Supporting them will be choirs from the Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

This will be a brilliant evening of song and with tickets at only £5. For further information, or to purchase tickets, contact Caroline Little on 07875 151510.







# Out and About with The GEM

**Beach watch**  
Art4U Community Arts Group is holding an event to celebrate the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, with an illuminated installation on the beach and hot soup, to remember ancestors and the recently passed on November 1 from 5pm at The Knap Pebble Beach, Barry.

Contact

**Valeways walks**  
Sunday, November 4, at 2.30pm, 'Heritage Trail', starting at Llantwit Major Old Town Hall.

Tuesday, November 6, at 1.30pm, 'coast and parks', Penarth Cliff Top car park.

Sunday, November 11, at 2pm, 'rail track and parks', starting at Penarth Cliff Top car

park.

**CAB clinics**  
THE Citizens Advice Bureau is holding weekly clinics at its centre on Broad Street, Barry, offering free advice on discrimination issues.

It is available on Thursdays, with a drop-in service between 9.30am and 11.30am.

**AM's surgery**  
**ELUNED PARROTT**, AM for South Wales Central, will hold an advice surgery at Morrisons

Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, on Friday, November 2, between 1pm and 2pm.

**Shakatak are back**

FOUR original members of the 1980s jazz funk band Shakatak will perform their hits at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, on Friday, November 2, at 7.30pm.

Bill Sharpe, Jill Saward, Roger Odell and George Anderson will be joined by a guitarist and a backing vocalist/saxophonist in a vibrant live act, combining astute musicianship with a sense of fun!

**Opportunities evening**

FRIENDS of Belvedere Park are hosting an 'opportunities evening' on Friday, November 2, between 6.30pm-8.30pm at Castleland Community Centre, Barry.

Opportunities available include all aspects of gardening, from basic to advanced level; design and artwork for planted areas; helping

with organising/running fundraising events and activities; publicity and promotion, including producing videos and digital promotional material and maintain Belvedere Park website – and any other support that can be given to the Friends of Belvedere Park.

Treasure hunt quiz with prizes, refreshments available.

Further information from Jean on 01446 403549.

**Autumn fayre**

THE Parish of Merthyr Dyfan with St Paul's, Barry, is hosting an autumn fayre on Saturday, November 3, from 2pm-4pm at St Paul's Hall, St Paul's Avenue, Barry.

Adults: 50p, children: free. Children's lucky dip – £1, with a present for every child. Home-made cakes stall, books, CDs and DVDs, bottle stall, hand crafted Christmas cards and gifts, preserves, jams, and pickles, grand raffle, bric a brac, jewellery stall, toiletries, refreshments.

**History society lecture**

THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, November 2, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge; 'GI involvement in south Wales' by Glenn Booker. All welcome.

**Wick surgery**  
WICK Community council surgery will be held at the village hall on Wednesday,

November 7, between 6pm and 7pm.

**Flower club**

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club will hold a meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, November 7, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, when Hilary West will give a demonstration entitled 'Be Prepared'.

**Art demo**

ON Thursday, November 8, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome Llantwit Major artist Nicola Davies, who will give a demonstration with ink and acrylic on paper.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm. Visitors welcome.

For full programme, see www.cowbridgeart society.com

**Two-minute silence**

THE Vale Council will support the Royal British Legion's observance of a two-minute silence to commemorate Armistice Day by holding a wreath laying ceremony on Friday, November 9.

A short service will take place on the Civic Office forecourt, Barry, in front of the Merchant Seamen Memorial, when the deputy Mayor, political leaders and representatives of local organisations, will lay wreaths.

The start and end of the silence will be marked by the playing of the Last Post and Reveille, and the public are invited to attend from 10.45am.

**Charity coffee**  
BRIDGEND county borough Mayor, Coun Marlene Thomas, holds a charity coffee morning on November 9 at 10am in Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

There will be an art display and gift stalls, a cake stall with pupils from Heronsbridge School and Mandy's Kitchen and Llangwydd School Choir.

Tickets (£5) include coffee and biscuits/cake.

For further information, please contact 01656 664105.

**Tondu art**

TONU and District Art Society holds its 30th winter exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, from 10am-6pm on November 10-13. Free admission. Call 01656 6661053.

**St Iltyd craft fayre**

THERE will be a Christmas craft fayre at St Iltyd Primary School, Station Road, Llantwit Major (near Co-op) on Thursday, November 15, from 6.30pm-9pm.

It includes craft stalls

from all over south Wales with an opportunity to purchase some unique gifts. Free entry. Raffle, mince pies and mulled wine. Everyone welcome. All proceeds go to the PTA.

Contact 07855 148771 for further details.

**Charity dance**

THERE will be a charity rock 'n' roll dance in aid of Sandville on Friday, November 16, at the Bryntirion OCLP Club at 7.30pm.

Singer Dave Riley will be performing. Tickets £5 on the door.

**Ynysawdre concert**

YNYSAWDRE Village Hall presents an evening with the Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir on Friday, November 30, at 7pm.

Admission is £5, including homemade cake and tea or coffee.

For tickets, please call Mair on 01656 722115.

**Recycling centre**

THE Llandow and Atlantic Trading Estate in Barry HWRC sites are now open between 10am and 4pm, seven days a week.

Both sites will only be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, with winter opening times remaining at both sites until March 30, 2013.

If you are planning on taking a trailer, van or horse box onto the site, you will need to apply for a permit in advance.

You can do so by phoning 01446 700111.

## Bond Ball for charity

TO celebrate the 50th birthday of James Bond and the release of the latest film Skyfall, Miskin Manor Hotel is hosting a Bond-themed black tie ball on Saturday, November 10, to raise money for the British Heart Foundation Cymru's 'Mending Broken Hearts' appeal, from 7pm.

Hosts for the evening will be BBC Wales presenters Lucy Owen and Rhodri Owen.

Sharon Owen, fundraising manager for British Heart Foundation Cardiff and south-east Wales, said: "By supporting events

such as The 007 Ball for our Mending Broken Hearts appeal, you'll be helping to fund a groundbreaking research programme that could end the suffering caused by severe heart failure, forever.

"Help us raise the funds we need to continue this amazing research at this critical stage."

"We are grateful to The Miskin Manor Hotel for holding this event."

To book tickets, contact Mari on 01443 224204

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# Skyfall-s... but earth doesn't move for this reviewer!

**I**T has been six years since Daniel Craig shook off the 'blonde Bond' tags and made the character of 007 seem fresh and vital again in *Casino Royale*, and four years since the underwhelming follow-up, *Quantum of Solace*, stripped away some of the momentum.

In the meantime, there have been false starts caused by studio instability, but James Bond finally returns, in his 50th anniversary year no less, in *Skyfall*.

This time round Bond, after being presumed killed in action, returns to help M (Judi Dench) when she loses vital information about undercover agents; information that a shadowy figure from her past, Raoul Silva (Javier Bardem), is intent on using to bring M, and the world, to their knees...

When James Bond was rebooted in 2006 with *Casino Royale*, it seemed to give the character a new lease of life. Harder-hitting, colder and less concerned with flashy, OTT histrionics, the Daniel Craig era landed with a bang, one that lessened slightly with *Quantum of Solace* two years later.

So with *Skyfall* there was much for Craig, and director Sam Mendes, to prove – was *Casino Royale* the template for the future or simply an aberration, albeit one that was a huge success.

What they have proved is that cinema is a dull place without the adventures of James Bond, but *Skyfall* isn't quite the riposte needed, particularly in the franchise's 50th year, the film feels underwhelming and slightly sluggish where it should be sprightly and full of life.

Three films in and Daniel Craig looks the part of 007 without a doubt, melding Fleming's written Bond to his stoic personality. Craig seems relaxed and his performance is charming, but also hints at the chinks in the character's armour, looking inward far more than any other Bond has done.

Bond's journey here is more personal than professional and Craig handles the quieter moments solidly without over-extending himself.

The main acting plaudits here go to Javier Bardem who delivers an incredible villain, and Judi Dench who, on her



by **GARETH JAMIESON**  
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seventh Bond outing, finally gets something juicy to get her teeth stuck into.

Bardem can do chilling villainy with ease, as *No Country For Old Men* attested, but add in flamboyance, a malevolence that simmers rather than boils, and seemingly Christopher Walken's hair from *A View To A Kill*, and you have a Bond villain worthy of that name.

Outlandish but rooted in reality, Bardem is the best adversary 007 has faced in recent memory, and the actor delivers an outstanding turn.

Dench, meanwhile, gets the chance to shine, the film focussing on her past misdemeanors and her relationship with Bond, and the actress offers a wonderful turn that strikes an emotional note amidst the bombast.

There are rich pickings among the support cast – Ben Whishaw, Naomie Harris and Ralph Fiennes all marking their first outings in the franchise with satisfying turns, with Albert Finney making a pleasing appearance in the final act.

While Sam Mendes is steeped in Bond lore, his first outing in the director's chair is good, but not great.

Certainly, he has a handle on the action sequences, with some looking absolutely incredible, particularly a

Shanghai-set mission.

His strength really lies in dealing with actors, and given the dramatic heft required here he proves a canny choice, marshalling the story and the performances well.

The real disappointment comes from the screenplay, which fails to balance the intriguing strand of Bond being a man out of time and his relationship with M with the common, and episodic, globe-trotting adventures that feel less interesting than the sub plots.

It would be a brave move indeed to concentrate solely on the characters and their motivations without throwing in the action that is par for the course for this franchise, but one that would have been rather more fulfilling.

Not quite the 50th birthday present you would have wanted, *Skyfall* isn't an awful film, and ticks the boxes that every Bond film should tick; but with the people involved, you would have expected something a bit more invigorating than a re-heating of the franchise's best moments with some (admittedly top level) drama thrown into the mix.

**VERDICT – Bond is back, but he has been better. Skyfall isn't, however, a bad return for the super spy, just underwhelming. With very strong turns from Javier Bardem and Judi Dench, and Daniel Craig oozing the essence of 007, the film doesn't fall short on acting quality, but a leaden plot enlivened by far more interesting and intriguing subplots, means that 007's licence to thrill is not in full effect here.**

**Enjoyable. SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Casino Royale (2006), Goldfinger (1964)**



The special brooch designed by Cowbridge's Carrie Elspeth.

## Special designer brooch for Ty Hafan

**CHILDREN'S hospice Ty Hafan is set to benefit from Cowbridge-based designer Carrie Elspeth producing a limited edition brooch, incorporating its logo, in a beautiful combination of pewter and crystal.**

### Art4U celebration of Samhain festival

**ART4U Community Arts Group are holding an event to celebrate the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain today (November 1) from 5pm onwards at The Knap pebble beach, Barry.**

Join us for an illuminated installation on the beach and some hot soup, and to remember our ancestors, and recently passed.

Use the fire to reflect and think about the future while the dark nights start to draw in.

Donations warmly welcomed. Weather-permitting event – the original event on Sunday October 28 was cancelled as the weather was awful!

For more information, visit: [www.art4uwales.org.uk](http://www.art4uwales.org.uk), or email: [christie@art4uwales.org.uk](mailto:christie@art4uwales.org.uk). **CL-B**

## Micro chip your dog for free

**DOG owners are being urged to take advantage of a special offer from Dogs Trust and Cardiff Dogs Home to get their dog microchipped for free at Cardiff Dogs Home on Penarth Road today (November 1) between 3pm and 7pm and tomorrow (November 2) 11am and 3.30pm.**

**Dogs Trust, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend has teamed up with Cardiff Dogs Home to help as many dogs as possible, said spokeswoman Sian Edwards.**

**"We would like to urge dog owners to take advantage of this limited microchipping offer. We have seen an**

**increase in the number of stray dogs in Wales this year, from 9,482 in 2011 to 10,230 in 2012 which shows the problem of stray dogs in the country is as prevalent as ever.**

**"If your dog does get lost, a microchip can enable you to be traced and reunited with it.**

**"While at Dogs Trust we never put a healthy dog to sleep, our rehoming centres are very stretched, so we constantly need to reach out to dog owners to help them get their dogs microchipped and neutered to help prevent the scores of stray and unwanted dogs we take in every year."**

**Cardiff Dogs Home is at Westpoint Industrial Estate, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8JQ.**

## GEM papergirl makes the next round of national competition

**GEM delivery girl Carriane Rogers was among three acts from Barry and one from Bridgend who made it through to the next stage of the Open Mic UK national talent competition – placing them two steps away from performing at London's O2 Arena.**

The regional final took place on Saturday October 20 in the Coal Exchange in Cardiff. With 25 acts in the 17-22-year-old category the competition was tough, but 17-year-old Carriane came sailing through it.

The event was well-attended, with Carriane's mum Kay Rogers commenting: "There were people struggling to get a seat as the night progressed."

Not only did she secure a place in the Area Final, taking place in Reading's Sub89 club on Sunday, December 2, but she also scooped the prize for the best original song for her tune 'Ghosts', which she performed on the night.

Carriane was in a state of shock to win the prize but totally thrilled about it, with judges commenting:

*"Love this girl's demeanour, the original song is great. Lovely tone and made the cover her own. Nice vocal and narrative in the song. Liked the blend in the voice."*

Barry's Luke Brown also made it through to the next stage.

Judges said of Luke: *"Good start, delivering the vocal with punch but guitar sounded out of tune. Great tone to his vocal, really rich and full. Try to get a little more core sound into the voice to give the song balance."*

Barry Comprehensive



Carriane Rogers and her trophy for best original song at the Open Mic singing competition. The Judges reviews were obtained from the Open Mic Facebook page.

School pupils, and friends of Carriane's, 'Back to November' are also through to the Area Finals.

Judges commented: *"Vocally very good, but expression of the guitar players is of solid poker players and not very engaging. Show you're enjoying it!"*

*"Perhaps the vocalists should line up in the middle to be the focal vision of the act."*

Bridgend-based act Davie are also through to the next round in Reading.

With a good following for each act they are considering hiring some minibuses for the Area Final.

Carriane will also be making an appearance

with a few of her own songs at an open day for a new playgroup in Barry – Phillybears – on Saturday, November 24 at the Scout Hall on Everard Street from 11am.

There will be free tea, coffee, squash and home-made cakes available. Tickets will be available at this event for the Area Finals, priced at £9.

They can also be purchased by emailing: [krogers17@talktalk.net](mailto:krogers17@talktalk.net), or by messaging either me or Carriane Rogers through Facebook. You can check out the video Carriane has made for the song 'Ghosts' via YouTube.

**KAY ROGERS**

## Rotarians taken into the heart of Moulin Rouge



Pictured are Rotary president Andrew Lane, Rachel Williams, and Rotarian Malcolm Wheeler.

**COWBRIDGE Rotary Club had a wonderful evening's entertainment on October 29 from Rachel Williams – formerly one of the legendary Bluebell Girls.**

As a young girl, Rachel had the confidence to walk into the Paris Lido and ask if they were recruiting for the girls. They were – and she got a job on the spot!

She told a fascinated audience just what it was like to work as one of these famous dancers; the heavy headdresses, the pancake make-up, the long hours of practice, and all those dances – precisely choreographed involving feath-

ers, sequins, snakes, camels, waterfalls, laser lights and very high heels.

She danced, she sang and worked long hours – an early night was a 3.30am finish.

But she was living the dream, and became principal dancer at the rival Moulin Rouge before returning to London and working in the West End production of 'Cats'.

She danced and sang her way through an hour of magical insights of life lived in the spotlight in front of a group of spellbound diners.

*This was a soiree of Parisian chic with long Welsh legs that will be remembered for a long time to come.* **AB**

## Crossway Church playgroup may have photos of interest!

**DURING the period 1974-96, many photographs were taken of the children at Crossway Church playgroup taking part in various activities at the end of the summer term, when were they leaving us to go to "big school".**

We have some albums as a record of this, and we also have many surplus photographs, which we would love to give to parents rather than dispose of them.

We invite parents to call into Crossway Church Hall on Wednesday, November 7 between 2pm-3.30pm, where they can browse through spare photographs and albums, and have a cup of tea and a chat!

**TERRY MARSDEN**  
Crossway Church playgroup

**Did you know you can now find The GEM on Facebook and Twitter? Follow us @gem\_news or visit [facebook.com/gem\\_news](http://facebook.com/gem_news)**



# THE SANDVILLE GETS A FACE LIFT – THANKS TO LOCAL AVIATION GROUP



Words and photographs by  
**KEITH E MORGAN**

**THE Sandville Self Help Centre has benefited from a major refurbishment of its therapy room – after being selected by the staff of Total Engine Support (TES) Aviation Group to receive a charitable donation.**

Just over a year ago, Mr Ashley Cooper, CEO of the TES Aviation Group, decided to give something back to the local community. To achieve this, a TES charity committee was formed to see where a positive contribution could be made.

A number of charities were considered and the Sandville Self Help Centre was selected to be the local charity that would benefit.

The staff at TES embarked on a year of fundraising events to generate the money needed to fund the project. More than £70,000 was raised through a number of events, from a Christmas hamper raffle, Welsh Three Peaks challenge, Heritage Coastal walk and a 14-strong team in the Cardiff Half Marathon.

After the money was raised, the TES staff decided to carry out two projects at Sandville.

The first was to renovate the front of the building to provide a fresh, clean look.

The second was to update and modernise one of the most heavily used rooms in the centre to provide a contemporary but tranquil environment.

The therapy room at the centre was chosen for this development project with TES given *carte blanche* in the manner of the work to be carried out.

More than 20 staff gave up their evenings and weekends to carry out the transformation. All of the old fixtures were pulled out to make way for a complete renovation.

The new TES therapy room now



**ABOVE:**  
*Commemorative plaque.*

benefits from a new paint scheme, along with new carpets, blinds and furniture, which were fitted to give the room an updated look and provide a calming atmosphere.

The renovation to the front of the building was completed with a fresh coat of paint, new fascia boards and guttering fitted and complemented with a new sign.

Volunteers at the centre, led by Sister Gwyneth Poacher MBE, were particularly grateful and thanked everyone for their efforts.

The opening ceremony was well attended and was followed by an afternoon of tea and cakes for the staff of TES, their family, friends, and all who had been involved in the projects.

A member of the TES charity committee said: "Sandville has touched so many people in the community in such a unique, helpful and positive way that it's been an absolute pleasure for the employees at TES to get involved in such a worthy project."



**ABOVE:** Sister Gwyneth Poacher gets a foot massage inside the TES therapy room.



**ABOVE:**  
*TES charity committee members cutting the ribbon to open the newly-renovated therapy room. Included in the picture are: Phillip Grant, engineering sales manager, Sarah Nelson, Dave Carr and Lloyd West. Also included are TES contributors, family members, Sandville guests and volunteers.*



**BELOW:**  
*The TES charity committee.*



**ABOVE:** TES contributors, family members, friends, Sandville guests and volunteers assemble in front of the repainted Sandville Court.



## Mother's thanks to 'Tractor Boys' for helping young Elena (6)

**A CHARITY tractor run that took place last weekend was in aid of a very special local cause.**

The run, organised by the 'Tractor Boys of Aberthyn' was to raise funds and awareness of a rare genetic condition that has singled out a six-year-old girl, Elena Wyatt.

The condition, called Mowat-Wilson syndrome, is so rare that Elena's mother, Helen, is aware of only one other child in Wales who has it. Young Elena is a twin, and Helen only became aware of Elena's condition when she noticed that she was developing at a slower rate than her twin sister, Louisa.

Helen Wyatt, who runs Morgan's Hair Design in Eastgate, Cowbridge, told The GEM: "She just wasn't hitting the same milestones as her sister.

"Louisa was walking at the usual age, but Elena didn't start until about three-and-a-half.

"Even now, she is very unbalanced and wears splints to help her get around.

"Again, Elena barely speaks - although she clearly understands things well and uses the children's sign language, Makaton."

It means that when Helen takes the twins from her Cardiff home to Trelai Primary School in Ely, Louisa heads for her year-1 friends, while Elena goes to the reception class.

Helen stressed, however, that Elena has a mild form of the syndrome. She said: "I have joined a support group that is based in the UK and have met other parents.

"I saw one four-year-old boy who is blind and has constant breathing difficulties."

Mowat-Wilson Syndrome (MWS) can be confirmed by DNA testing, and can be responsible for a wide range of conditions, including bowel problems, heart disease and epilepsy.

For Helen and her husband Costa, dealing with Elena's condition has been difficult. Elena was diagnosed with MWS at the age of four, and Helen was pregnant at the time with Sophia, who is now 22 months old.

Helen said: "We were offered a test to see if Sophia had the condition, but we decided not to have it.

"It is amazing to us that now, Sophia seems to sense the difference between her twin sisters."

Having Elena has, says Helen, brought a lot of love into the family. She explained:



**ABOVE: Elena Wyatt and (left) her twin sister Louisa. (Photographs by Glyn Evans).**

"Louisa is almost a carer for Elena, while Elena is really lovely with Sophia, and she spends hours playing with her.

"They both go to the same school, but two mornings a week, Elena goes to the nearby Riverside School, which is a special needs unit.

"I remember Louisa saying, Mummy, why is Elena special, when I'm not?"

The special needs statement has meant that Elena has had a great deal of support, with both a speech therapist and a physiotherapist working with her.

Helen said: "They have been fantastic, and Elena has definitely made great progress."

The Tractor Boys became involved because one of Helen's regular customers is Caroline Langford, and her husband Steve is one of the Tractor Boys.

The money they raised will go to the MWS sup-

port group, and Caroline told The GEM that it was they were delighted to be able to help the charity.

She said that the support group, apart from giving parents someone in a similar position to talk to, is also trying to raise awareness about the condition.

Although there is no cure, it seems that it is picked up and diagnosed earlier in some parts of the UK than in others - and an early diagnosis can really help a family.

Helen added: "Elena is wonderful and she is so cheerful and good-natured.

"She has no real sense of fear, and can hurt herself, but doesn't seem to feel pain."

"One day, she was sitting on stinging nettles, and didn't react at all, so she is not getting to be aware of danger.

"As a result, it looks as if she will need to be with her family all her life."

**PHILIP IRWIN**

## Racing kart puts injured troops in the driving seat



**The new race kart presented to injured troops of KartForce with top row (LEFT to RIGHT): Colin Lipscomb of SilverFoxKarting, Richard Croydon of Brewin Dolphin, injured troops Mark Allen and Stevie Shine, Welsh racing driver Jake Rattenbury, injured troop Martyn Compton, Colin Lipscomb of SilverFoxKarting, Nigel Clark of South Wales Karting Centre, Richard Croydon of Brewin Dolphin and, in the kart, Davie Birrell of KartForce.**

**INJURED soldiers in the Vale are to benefit from a new purpose-built racing kart, after charity KartForce received a charitable donation from a local business.**

SilverFoxKarting, a business that provides kart coaching, events and engineering services, has raised more than £6,000 to build the new kart, which will be fitted with hand controls that can be easily adapted, depending on the injury of its driver.

Fitted with pedals and KartForce hand controls, the dual control kart allows troops with differing injuries, as severe as triple

amputations, to compete together as a team on a totally level playing field with non-injured drivers.

The new kart, which has had many of its components donated by engine manufacturers, will be used by injured troops who want to take part in karting on a competitive level at championships across the UK.

After seeing a team of ex-servicemen compete in the Inter Services Karting Championships in an outdated kart, SilverFoxKarting's founders, Colin Lipscomb and Ken Denscombe, decided that they wanted to do something to help.

Colin, who spent nine years in the Royal

Air Force, said: "When we saw the team of ex-servicemen, we were touched by their spirit and outlook on life.

"Between the four drivers, none of them had a full set of limbs. We wanted to do something to help the great work of KartForce.

"Anybody can put their hand in their pocket and donate some money but we wanted to do something that that we knew would make a difference, so we went about building a new racing kart for the charity by using donations from the karting industry, and from friends who support this cause."

The new kart was presented to members of KartForce by SilverFoxKarting and

investment management firm Brewin Dolphin, at a special race day organised in the charity's honour.

The KartForce Challenge Cup, which took place at South Wales Karting Centre, was organised by SilverFoxKarting to raise further funds for KartForce and two related charities - the RAF Benevolent Fund and Army Benevolent Fund.

More than 20 teams took part in the four-hour endurance race, approved by the RAF Motorsport Association, donating their £80 entrance fee to the three charities.

Organisers and the South Wales Karting Centre gave up their time and facilities for

free for the cause.

A KartForce team of four took part in the Challenge Cup, made up of Martyn Compton (27) from Lydd in

Kent, who received 80 per cent burns during an ambush on his vehicle; Stephen Shine (29) from London, who had his leg amputated above the knee after his tank was attacked in Iraq; Mark Allen (20) from Kings Lynn, who lost both of his legs above the knee, and the tip of his nose and several of his fingers after being struck by an IED in Afghanistan and, Davie Birrell (25) from Fife, who lost both of his legs below the knee, also due to an IED strike in Afghanistan.

## When racing was racing!

**ADAM POWLEY'S**  
**When Racing Was Racing - A Century of Horse Racing, published by Haynes at £20 is a delightful stroll down horse-racing's memory's lane.**

Drawing on pictures from the huge Daily Mirror Mirrorpix archive, this book brings back to life all the excitement and drama, with profiles on the great and good of the sport.

Some 90 racecourses disappeared in the 20th century alone and some of the ones featured are Gatwick, Manchester, Lincoln, Alexandra Park and Lewes.

The first named opened in 1891, was set up to replace the old Waddon track at Croydon.

Served by its own railway station, Gatwick was a successful venue, and even hosted the relocated Grand National during the First World War. It continued to function up to 1940 but with another

conflict demanding use

of the land for an airfield, its days were numbered.

Racing legends such as Dick Francis, Sir Gordon Richards, Fred Winter, Terry Biddlecombe and Lester Piggott are just a few of the jockeys featured.

Even point-to-point racing gets a look-in, with a crowd scene taken at the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases at Penllyn Castle in 1965.

Another picture shows Gay Walker winning over the course on April Witch in 1969. In presenting a broad picture of the sport as it once was, we get a fascinating glimpse of a lost age when the sport had the atmosphere of a pastime not quite so wedded to absolute commercial imperatives (even if the reality might not have been so clear cut).

As a window on a 'lost world' of horse racing, the images presented in this unique book bring back some wonderful memories of a golden age.

**BRIAN LEE**

## PACT meetings

**COITY PACT:**  
**Gilead Chapel, Heol Spencer, today, November 1, at 7pm.**

**OLDCASTLE PACT:**  
**The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, November 7, at 6.30pm.**

**MORFA WILDMILL PACT:**  
**The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill, November 8, at 6.30pm.**

**LITCHARD & PEN-DRE PACT:**  
**Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace), November 26, at 6.30pm.**

**CEFN GLAS, LLANGWYDD & BRYNHAFRYD PACT:**  
**Llangwydd Junior School, November 26, at 5.30pm.**

**FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYSG (PENCOED) & COY-CHURCH PACT:**  
**Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, November 28, at 6pm.**

**BRACKLA PACT:**  
**Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, November 29, at 6.30pm.**

## HALLOWEEN GHOST WALK IS A SUCCESS!



**Children braved the weather to take part in Porthcawl paranormal team's Halloween ghost talk and walk.**

**THE Porthcawl paranormal team's Halloween ghost talk and walk was a fantastic success, despite the rain.**

The glowing circles in the picture are from the health and safety badges provided for the

walk. The team were all involved and there were a few unexpected surprises going down the spooky Moor Lane!

The turn-out was fantastic and many of the adults dressed up, too. They gave a terrific round of applause and Karen raised money for her Halloween

quiz, which is in aid of Ty Hafan - so far, she has raised £650 towards her target of £1,000.

We would also like to thank Sarah Watkins and her son Dan for their help in making the evening memorable. **HW**



## Four from four for Ath under-16s



**THE Bridgend Athletic under-16s have had the perfect start to the 2012-2013 season with four wins including an impressive 50-point win in their opening game of this season's Regional Ospreys Cup campaign.**

They opened their season with a mouth-watering fixture at home at Newbridge Fields to local rivals Bridgend Sports.

The Ath were down to just 17 players with boys still away on holidays, injuries and players involved with regional Ospreys under-16s commitments, however the new-look squad were desperate to play despite a number of forced positional changes, especially in the backline.

The boys came away with a 28-3 win, an incredible achievement given their lack of playing resources.

In the second week, a squad of just 15 players made the journey to Mountain Ash and the boys came away with a hard-fought 26-12 victory.

Week three saw Pontypool United visit Newbridge Fields and this was the first occasion that the Ath squad had been together as a whole this season, and a win was the order of the day.

Finally, the team began their Ospreys Cup campaign with a comprehensive win over a courageous

Neath Athletic side. The Bridgend boys had far too much strength, power, pace and all-round team organisation for their opponents, who were unable to prevent the Ath from finishing the game in quick time as they broke the 50-point barrier.

The Athletic have a squad of 21 players but are now down to 20 for the remainder of the season after Jack Deere suffered a severe and unfortunate injury, fracturing his leg early on in the season, from which we all hope he makes a full and speedy recovery.

The quality of the players is evident this season, with 13 players selected to play for Bridgend District under-16s. In addition, prop Sam Matthews and second row Chris Long have been selected for the regional Ospreys under-16s team, and Chris has captained that side for the last four regional games.

Five players have also been selected for the Boys Club of Wales under-16s squad, those players being prop Sam Jervis, hooker Toby Galliers, full back Ben Jones, second row Matthew Bennett and wing Jack Hogan (players left to right in the above photo).

The boys are hoping to continue their good early season form during their next home game on November 11 at Newbridge Fields when they face last season's Ospreys Cup finalists Ystradgynlais in the second round pool stage of the under-16s competition. **TB**

## Bryncethin youth just edged out

**BRYNCEETHIN youth played host to Nantymoel in their first league game of the season.**

It was a tough and close encounter throughout, with Nantymoel just gaining the win, 29-26.

Nantymoel were quickly into their stride as within minutes of the kick-off they were awarded a scrum on the Bryncethin five metre line. The ball was quickly moved to outside half by flanker Nathan Morgan saw the ball quickly recycled and moved out to winger Day, who used his strength and speed to burst through the Nantymoel defence and score by the posts, outside half Paul Short added the conversion.

The game settled for a while with both teams attacking hard but both defences holding well, until a catch and drive line-out by Nantymoel on their 10 metre line, sucked in the Bryncethin defence. When the ball was moved to Clement he again burst through the defensive line and was able to offload the ball for winger Jordan Budd to score in the corner.

Bryncethin started to find their feet and some good powerful runs by props Tom Lewis and Shane Jones gained them good field position, so that when they were awarded a penalty for an infringement at a ruck, winger Tom Day took it quickly and powered towards the try line. When he was eventually brought down the ball was moved quickly for centre Jack Charles to score.

Bryncethin's joy was short-lived as from the restart the ball was caught by Jones, but unfortunately he failed to release the ball quick enough when tackled and Nantymoel were awarded a penalty which Walker slotted over. This concluded the first half. **HR**

Nantymoel started the brightest in the second half when they quickly scored two tries, the first an interception try by centre Kieron Townsend and the second after Clement made another break from a line-out and was able to offload to Townsend for his second try, both were converted by Walker.

This seemed to spur the Bryncethin team into action and a good break by flanker Nathan Morgan saw the ball quickly recycled and moved out to winger Day, who used his strength and speed to burst through the Nantymoel defence and score by the posts, outside half Paul Short added the conversion.

Bryncethin were soon on the scoreboard again after they won a line-out in the Nantymoel half.

The ball was popped down to scrum half Geraint Watkin who then used his speed and agility to run through unopposed and score under the posts, Short added the extra points.

With time almost up Bryncethin put in a huge effort to score again. A line-out in the Nantymoel 22 gave them the platform they needed. The ball was won and moved to Short who saw that the Nantymoel defence had pushed up to smother the attack. He chipped the ball over them and flanker Connor Law was on hand to gather and fall over the try line. Short added the conversion but that was the last play.

Geraint Watkin was man of the match for his excellent defensive work and sniping runs. **HR**

## PHOENIX CLIMB A MOUNTAIN...



**Pencoed Phoenix are pictured on top of Pen-y-Fan, having done a sponsored climb for new kit. Anyone wishing to sponsor the Phoenix please contact Pencoed RFC on 01656 860152 or email: pencoedphoenix@hotmail.co.uk.**

## And then triumph over Caernarfon!



**ABOVE: Lauren Aitken evades a Caernarfon tackler. PICTURE BY JULIE HANCOCK**

**THIS game was played in squally, difficult conditions between two evenly matched sides and went down to the wire, before Phoenix recorded a hard-earned season double over their respected north Walian opponents.**

Phoenix stated their intentions early on, shutting the Caernarfon pack off their own ball at the first two set scrums.

The opening quarter saw Phoenix take the ball at will from the scrum-mage, their front row of Leanne Casley, Molly Humphreys and Alana Shakespeare clearly in the ascendancy.

Phoenix were not capitalising on this dominance however and it was the visitors who took the lead with a try from Kenin Eifion.

Phoenix hit back within minutes, going through several phases, the ball reaching right wing Hannah Seward who kicked ahead to win the chase for the touch-down, outside half Robyn Wilkins converting from wide out.

A last-ditch cover tackle from Phoenix centre Nerys Lloyd then prevented a Caernarfon score and Phoenix led 7-5 at the break.

The home side started the second half well, just held up on the try line on two occasions. Caernarfon clawed back the lead, however, with a penalty goal from the assured Sera Bailey.

Phoenix then got on top territorially with Lloyd once again held up on the try line. Sustained

pressure from the home side got its reward, full back Jade Mullen, on her return from duties in Afghanistan, initially picking a good angle to thrust to the posts before regaining possession from the resultant maul to force her way over; Wilkins converted.

Phoenix now led 14-8 but with some six minutes remaining the visitors took the lead for the third time in the match with a try and conversion from Sera Bailey.

Defeat stared Phoenix in the face, but to their credit they again showed their battling qualities and threw in one last attack, and with Caernarfon penalised for a high tackle, Wilkins slotted the goal to the obvious delight of her team mates for a last gasp 17-15 victory.

Once again, the Phoenix pack provided the platform for this win, **TR**

industrious second rows Kathryn Stonehouse and Hannah Brunskill supplementing their front row forwards' efforts, with skipper Marina Newth along with back row colleagues Nat O'Shea and Amy Stevens their usual all-action competitive selves.

Fittingly though, it was centre Nerys Lloyd who was chosen Phoenix player of the match by her opponents in this, her last match before taking a year out in Australia.

A recent boost to the Phoenix ranks has seen football converts Lauren Aitkens, Tonie Birch, Leanne Burnell and Sam Trickey settling in nicely to add to the healthy competition for places.

On Sunday Phoenix travel to Kidwelly for a National Championship 1 match. **TR**

## AFC beat Bridgend Street despite often being second best

**LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC welcomed Bridgend Street to their Windmill Lane ground for the second time this season having defeated them in the Cup competition some four weeks ago.**

The game kicked off in bright sunshine but on a cold and predictably windy afternoon on the Vale coast.

On five minutes the Major won a direct free-kick on 30 yards but following a short pass the final shot was struck well wide, not helped by the poor surface of the pitch.

The visitors then broke quickly and following some neat play, the final shot was struck well over the bar. On 15 minutes leading scorer Nash broke through and shot wide, then Max Morgan controlled well out on the left and played a high cross which the keeper caught well with the Major forwards ready to pounce had a mishandle occurred.

On 20 minutes it was the visitors on target again and Jack Lansdown in goal for the home side made a good save. The Major then counter attacked and a good strike from out on the left went just over the bar.

The Major then took the lead and it was a great strike by the youngster Max Morgan from 20 yards that nearly burst the net. Both teams had chances but the keepers were rarely challenged as the shots were either high or wide

other than Morgan, who had another good effort that struck the bar.

Then, just before half-time the visitors equalised following some poor defensive play by the Major and the teams went in all square.

Not sure what was in the tea in the Llantwit dressing room but for the first 10-15 minutes of the second half they were very poor and indeed very lucky not to concede goals as the visitors attacked again and again.

Eventually, the Major settled back down but there were few chances for either team until the Major were awarded a penalty for handball. Sean Nash stepped up and buried the spot kick to go 2-1 up, arguably against the run of play.

A good three points for the home team but the visitors went away very disappointed having had more of the play, in particular in the second half, but only able to score the one goal.

The Major will accept the irony that having played well and lost their two previous games, they won this one whilst not playing at their best.

They need to take this thought into their next game away at Llanwern on Saturday, kick-off 2pm.

**Llantwit Major AFC squad:** Lansdown, Shaw, Cox, Robinson, Constant, Pratt, Jones, Morgan, Roscrow, Lindsay, Nash, Faux, Jennings, and Whittlam.

The next home game is on November 10 against Abertillery Bluebirds, kick off 2pm. **PL**

## Tondu under-13s don't take their chances

**ON Sunday, Tondu under-13s entertained Talywain under-13s.**

Tondu attacked from the off, and for the majority of the first half but they couldn't turn pressure into points. With some weak tackling by Tondu, Talywain broke away three times to score three converted tries.

After the half-time team talk, Tondu exploded into life and scored a try by C Gibson, but again it was a case of not taking your chances, and allowing Talywain to take theirs.

It was nice to see all the home players being more physical and aggressive, but they need to put points on the board.

**Final score: Tondu 5, Talywain 40.**

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## Thank You

## "THANK YOU"

Edna Hardie would like to thank her family and friends for all the lovely presents and cards she received for her 85th birthday, and for making it such a 'special' day.

Special thanks to Mrs & Mr Christopher and staff of West House Hotel for the splendid repast and to Andrew for my special dessert.

Thank you one and all, Edna.

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## Birthdays

3rd November, 2012

**Happy 18th Birthday Faris!**

Lots of Love,  
Gen and family xxx

**Happy 21st Birthday**  
to our wonderful daughter

**ELOISE LEWIS**

"Love you to the moon and back"

Love Mum, Dad, Bartley,  
Badger, Billy and Seren  
x x x x

## Family Notices

**EDWARDS**  
**Hubert**

of Tregroes, Fishguard, formerly of Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major.

Beloved husband of the late Pat.

Dearly loved father of Mark and Sarah, father in law of Alex, Grandfather of Thomas, Finn and Joel.

The funeral service was held at St. David's Cathedral on Wednesday, October 31st.

Donations if desired for the Marie Curie Hospice, at Holme Tower Penarth c/o W.G. Bernard Mathias, Funeral Director, 64 New Street, St.Davids SA62 6SU

**PICKFORD**  
**Alan John**

Passed away peacefully at Holme Tower, Penarth on 28 October 2012, Alan, of Llantwit Major.

Devoted husband of Rita and wonderful Dad to Andrea and Amanda, a special father-in-law to Hugh and Mike and a loving Papa to Jasmine, George, Katie May and Christopher. He will be sadly missed by both family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in Cychurch Crematorium on Tuesday November 6 at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Velindre Hospital c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please)

**REGAN**  
**Terence David**

Maria, Sue, Carol and families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the beautiful flowers, cards and messages of sympathy received on our sad loss of Terry.

Thank to you Father Edmund Neizer for a lovely, caring service and to all who attended.

Thank you to WA Brown and Son for the kind and caring way they conducted the funeral.

Thanks to doctors and nurses at Ward 5, Princess of Wales Hospital for looking after Terry so well.

**JONES**  
**Jennifer**

Jennifer Jones better known as Jane, passed away on the morning of October 8th just as the leaves were turning beautiful autumn shades.

Your brothers Jeff and Chris Bevan will always love you.

**TUDGE**  
**Harold Clive**

Peacefully after a short illness on the 28th October 2012,

Clive of Llantwit Major, dearly loved husband of Margaret and much loved father to David and Jackie, a loving grandfather to Helen and great grandfather to Reece. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the service in Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium Barry on Thursday 8th November at 11.15 a.m. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please)

## Articles For Sale

**ADVERTISE HERE** £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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## Imps celebrate 40th anniversary in style

CADOXTON IMPS AFC have this year been celebrating the magnificent milestone of 40 years since the club was first founded by Graham Harris back in 1972 with a team of 10-year-olds in the youth section of the old Barry & District League.

The team initially started under the name of Buttrills Rovers but Cadoxton Conservative Club provided the finance for the first shirts and as the boys were all little devils, the name of the club was born.

To celebrate this great achievement, the club have been organising a series of events throughout the year. The club recently held a successful 40th anniversary black tie ball at the Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry almost to the day 40 years ago when the 10-year-olds played their first competitive match.

More than 100 guests enjoyed a three-course dinner and wine with local band Taboo providing the live music entertainment and the disco. Thanks to Sid and the boys from Taboo for stepping in at short notice as the original band booked were unable to attend.

The club also raised funds on the night from a prize raffle and an auction so thanks are due to Lyndon Smith of LDS Motor Factors, Huw Thomas of McDonald's Restaurant (Barry) and Leigh Cogbill (under-16 manager) for provision of the main prizes. Thanks to everyone else who donated raffle prizes and thanks also to Mandy and Phil and their staff at the Masonic Hall.

Above are photographs from the evening featuring founder Graham Harris, current president Len Jones, current vice chairman Steve Gibbs, current chairman Martin Pursall, current secretary Gary Spierling and current welfare officer Alan Smith.



Amongst those pictured above are founder Graham Harris, current president Len Jones, current vice chairman Steve Gibbs, current chairman Martin Pursall, current secretary Gary Spierling and current welfare officer Alan Smith.



tary Gary Spierling and current welfare officer Alan Smith.

ABOVE: Some of the first players to represent Cadoxton Imps (or Buttrills Rovers as they were called at that time) looking somewhat older than they did that day 40 years ago!

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## Talent show

VALE'S GOT TALENT 2012 is being hosted at Gordon Bennetts, Broad Street, Barry with heats being held on November 4, 11, 18 and 25.

The semi-finals are on December 2 and 9, with the grand final on December 16: first prize - £500; second prize - £150; third prize - £50.

Any age welcome to enter! Ty Hafan will also be fundraising on the night.

To register, email: **info@vrentertainment.co.uk**

MARTIN PURSALL, CHAIRMAN

## Deadline

THE final date for entry to the Music in the Vale competition for young singers and instrumentalists is Monday, November 5.

All information and entry forms on the website: **www.musicinthevale.org.uk**

The competition is on November 24 and 25 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthyn Road, with free concerts each evening to decide the winners in each category.



## Bees get help from Wales star Jamie!



**BARRY Bees under-10s were joined by Welsh international Jamie Roberts for a training session on an extremely wet and cold Thursday night – but nothing could dampen the boy's enthusiasm or excitement!**

The Welsh and Lions centre joined in with the boys as they went through their normal training drills, and then took part in a full-blooded match, giving the awestruck boys the benefit of his international experience.

The boys were keen to show off their skills, and despite the disparity in size did not shirk

when it came to trying to stop the hard-running Welsh back.

Jamie was truly inspirational and despite the awful conditions his passion and commitment were contagious and the boys (as well as the mums!) were captivated.

After the training, and once everyone had thawed out, he held a question and answer session in the clubhouse; and yes the important question about his future with the Blues was asked, but he was understandably non-committal.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity arranged through the auspices of Admiral and Matt Lloyd, who is one of the Barry Bees parents.

Jamie gave the boys an excel-

lent insight into the life of a professional and international rugby player; but he continually stressed that the most important thing was that the boys should enjoy their rugby and hopefully this is the key lesson that they will take away from what was a memorable evening.

For all budding Jamie Roberts', and for that matter Adam Jones', Barry Bees under-10s (year-5s) are always looking for new players.

We are a highly successful and friendly mixed ability team, and any potential new recruits should contact John Bale on 07870 419691.

JM

## COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

### Cup progress for year-7 footballers



Cardiff Blues under-16s squad members from Cowbridge.

**RECENTLY, the year-7 football team played St Teilos in the second round of the Welsh Schools Cup.**

After their convincing win against Llantwit in the previous round confidence was high, and Cowbridge were looking to put in another good performance.

At the start of the game, it was evident that this fixture was going to be a lot more difficult. St Teilos had a number of Newport County players, and were showing their comfort on the ball. Cowbridge took no notice of this, and Logan Roach led the attack.

The Cowbridge mid-field were controlling the game, commanding the middle of the park, making sure that the majority of the possession stayed on their side.

Logan picked up the ball around the half-way line, and with some excellent dribbling skills, made his way into the St Teilos box. He pushed the ball to his weaker side, and smashed the ball with his right foot.

It flew into the bottom corner, and Cowbridge had opened the scoring inside five minutes.

St Teilos were playing some great football themselves, supplying effective long balls over and through the defence, only for Harri Hartmann to bravely dive at the strikers' feet to steal the ball away from them.

The second goal was again scored by Logan Roach. Superb interplay between Edward Lewis, Alex Brooks and Cameron Gauci set the ball free on the left wing.

Cameron galloped down the flank and whipped in an excellent cross, which Logan dismissed into the back of the net with a high, looping header. The score was now 2-0 and Cowbridge were looking good for the win.

Right at the end of the half, St Teilos put in another great ball over the defence. With Cowbridge convinced offside was going to be called, they switched off. St Teilos capitalised on this and slotted the ball towards goal and, despite Jack Dixon's best effort, he could not backtrack and keep the ball out.

Cowbridge, not happy conceding a goal so late on in the half, instantly went back into attack mode. The ball was crossed into the box by George Cuddihy, and it was partially cleared by the defence.

The ball bounced on the edge of the box, in front of Ben Jones, who hit the ball on the half volley. The ball flew into the top corner for an outstanding goal which is front runner for goal of the season.

At half-time the score was 3-1 and Cowbridge started the second half in the same manner. Barney L-Cryer, Michael Bosley, Lewis Hawke, Mitchell Stimson-Jagger, and Jack Dixon were keeping the St Teilos attack at bay, while Cameron, Alex, Edward, Logan and George were terrorising the defence, with Ben causing havoc.

Cowbridge were unlucky not to score three or four goals in the first 15 minutes, with the ball always going agonisingly close. Cowbridge were then awarded a penalty, which was excellently saved by the 'keeper.

St Teilos then came back again with a goal and it made for a tense ending to the game. Cowbridge stayed strong, and kept St Teilos out. The game was won, and what a great game.

Well done year-7, you played some excellent football and it is brilliant to see the team taking shape. Players of the match: Logan Roach and Alex Brooks-Bent.

**RUGBY**  
**THE** photograph (above) shows some of the year-11 Cowbridge Comprehensive School

pupils who recently competed for the Cardiff Blues under-16 squad.

The team won by 50 points against North Wales. Cowbridge has the biggest number of representatives in the squad of any school in Cardiff and the Vale, and this season also represents the highest number of pupils that Cowbridge has ever had involved in this squad.

Squad members include: Adam Dix, Dan Holder, Harry Dowell Bennett, Joe Gaughan, Aaron Bowman, Tom Higgins, Harry Goodfellow, Alex Guard, Nicky Griffiths and Josh Thomas.

**SD**  
The school also have two players involved in the Cardiff Blues under-16 development squad: Matt Lock and Jack Whitaker.

NT

## Rhooose lose out in 'battle of the Rovers'

**RHOOSE Rovers FC were undone in gusty conditions at Pencoedtre as they lost 6-3 against a superb Barry Rovers team; Drew Barrett starred with two goals for Rhooose.**

Manager Dave Walsh was left angered by his team's first half performance with three goals being conceded in the first 20 minutes after some slick football being played by the home team.

The main threats of Rowe, Barrett and Vinson failed to materialise with Barry showing some impressive defensive displays.

Ten minutes before the interval saw the home side extend their lead even further with a 'goal of the month' contender; the ball finding the top corner of the net from 30 yards out.

Rhooose managed to pull a goal back after a free-kick, taken by Powell, found Barrett who scrambled the ball over the line a few minutes before half-time.

After being dealt the

'hair-dryer treatment' by the manager, Rhooose Rovers looked a completely different team and started to show glimpses of potential.

While taking advantage of the blustery winds, the visitors began creating chances.

However, switching to a more attacking formation left spaces in

defence and despite pulling two goals back; the first coming from the head of Walsh after a corner from Byrne and the second coming from Barrett after another corner from Baker, Barry scored two of their own to secure victory.

Team: Jake Birkenhead, Darren

Price, Joe Walsh, Lee Dixon, Dale Trickett, Aidan Byrne, Sion Tucker, Chris Vinson, Jonny Powell, Josh Rowe, Drew Barrett. Substitutes: Ashley Baker (60'), Liam Byrne (65'), Luke Solomon (75').

AB

## Rhooose under-14s' five-star performance

**RHOOSE under-14s started the game against Cowbridge with a high tempo and were soon on the attack with Daniel Cope making a darting run down the wing to set up Josh Brown, whose first-time effort was well saved by the Cowbridge keeper.**

Jay Coles found himself in space outside the box and his superb strike found the top corner to give Rhooose the lead.

Cowbridge created a number of chances, but Dylan White and Ryan Hughes were solid in defence, making several last-ditch tackles.

Rhooose increased their lead when Cameron Leach dribbled his way through a number of challenges before curling the ball around the oncoming keeper.

In the second half, Matt Cottingham

used his blistering pace to get in behind the Cowbridge defence and scored with a powerful strike. Cowbridge pegged one back with a well-worked move from a free-kick.

Lee Bartlett was unlucky when his volley was blocked on the line. Edward Thomas had a terrific game in defence with great positional play to reduce the number of Cowbridge attacks.

Michael Wilson played an intricate through ball into the path of Patrick O'Carroll, whose long range effort was brilliantly saved by the Cowbridge keeper, but Cameron Leach followed in and managed to steer the ball home for his hat-trick.

Harry Morgan-Grant was called into action on several times in the Rhooose goal and tipped several strikes around the post. Cowbridge ended the game with another well-deserved goal to make the final score 5-2.

MB

## Summer competition a hit with Barry skittlers



LEFT to RIGHT: Alex Campbell, club chairman and tournament organiser, Rose Dawe, Simon Barnsley, captain of Barney's Bombers, Andrew Hillard, Steff Germon, captain of the Tynewydd Lads, was not available.

**THE Barry Dock Liberal Club recently held it's annual skittle competition, which was played throughout the summer months and held on a league basis.**

The prizes were given out by Alex Campbell, club chairman and tournament organiser on Saturday October 27, before the commencement of the evening entertainment.

The highest men's score was 36 by Andrew Hillard of the Tynewydd Lads. The highest ladies' score was 33 by Rose Dawe of View the Dragon. Both players received £100 for their respective highest scores.

The tournament has been running since 2006 and has been growing in popularity each year and it is hoped that in 2013 many more teams will enter.

The club would like to express their thanks to all of the teams that entered, the competition was played

with a friendly spirit throughout and all of the teams thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A special mention must be made for the White Witches, who had a 100 per cent losing record. They enjoyed themselves immensely, their motto being: 'It's not the winning, but the taking part that counts'.

Final standings: First – Tynewydd Lads, 39 points; second – Barney's Bombers, 33 points; third – Exiles, 33 points; fourth – Crazy's, 28 points; fifth – Keith's Girls, 24 points; sixth – 49'ers, 24 points; seventh – Royals, 22 points; eighth – Smurfs, 22 points; ninth – Alternatives, 21 points; 10th – Commanches, 21 points; 11th – Don't Get Very Fars, 15 points; 12th – View the Dragon, 12 points; 13th – Bazzar's Best, 10 points; 14th – Libby's Girls, nine points; 15th – White Witches, 0 points.

Alex Campbell  
Organiser



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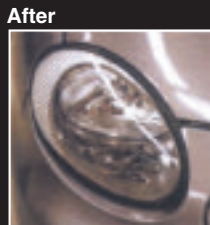
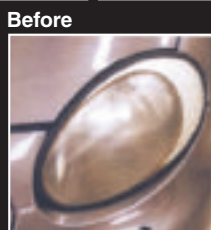
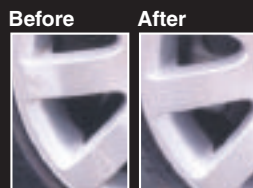
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## All geared up for cold weather!



LYNDSAY at The Vale Funeral Service is "proud" to have provided a Pan disability football club based in the Vale with outdoor wet weather jackets.

Lyndsay said: "I have always supported causes in the community since becoming an

established funeral director in Barry and the Vale. My commitment will continue and I am pleased that I could do this."

Pan disability team members have differing impairments but play together, regardless of their limitations.

With the donation of wet

weather training jackets, the team will be able to train outside during the colder weather on organised special training days.

The club has thanked Lyndsay and The Vale Funeral Service for their support.

## Spooky goings-on for young Dinas Powys footballers



A BIG thank you goes to all those who attended the annual Dinas Powys mini FC Hallowe'en party.

Each year, the attendances have grown, and Liz, the entertainer, kept the children busy all

night. Thanks also go to the parents from Dinas Wolves, who spent all afternoon getting the hall ready and then working during the evening serving food and drinks to the revellers. LS

## ROTARY EVENT A SUCCESS



**THE Rotary Club of Bridgend was founded in 1925 and has an eventful and successful history of youth and charitable activity in the community.**

It is part of a world-wide organisation but with strong local involvement.

Rotary, and in particular, The New Generations Committee, is pleased to support the South Wales Special Schools' Soccer Tournament, which was held on October 25, at Heronsbridge School.

This is an annual event which attracts a lot of local support.

The Youth Challenge Football Shield Tournament has been going since 2000 under the leadership and organising skills of Richard Howe, head of design and technology at Heronsbridge.

Richard has been running the tournament for the past 13 years, ably assisted by Rotarian Edgar Burt and the head of physical development, Mr Simon Type.

This year's event included; teams from Maes Gwyn, Aberdare; Greenfield School, Merthyr Tydfil; Ysgol Bryn Castell, Bridgend; Heronsbridge, Bridgend; Ysgol Hendre, Neath; and Headlands School, Penarth; to name but a few.

The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Mayor Marlene Thomas, braved the cold and stayed for most of the tournament to present the prizes to the winners, Maes Gwyn School, Aberdare, and the runners up prize to Ysgol Bryn Castell.

She also gave prizes to the most improved team, Ysgol Hendre School, Neath and the Fair Play Trophy was won by Headlands School, Penarth.

All players received a medal for taking part in this wonderful competition.

Rotarian president, Rev Mike Lewis, attended early but was whisked away to begin a short break holiday in Lower Slaughter in the Cotswolds. Others on hand to give support were Rotarians

Gillian Hale, Gwyn Thomas and Wayne Morgan MBE.

The tournament has been sponsored by Mr Derek Gaynor of Gaynor Group Ltd since it started some 13 years ago. A big thank you and congratulations go to the sponsors, organisers and teams for a sporting spectacular.

Fishing competitions are also held each season, with three schools taking part in each. From April to November, monthly fishing days are held on nearby lakes with groups from Heronsbridge.

Youth Speaks and Young Musician Competitions are held each year for senior schools. There is also a quiz competition and junior youth speaks competition organised for primary schools in the Bridgend area.

The club meets every Monday and details regarding membership can be obtained from Rotarian Mike Lewis. (Google Bridgend Rotary Club). WM



# SUNNY SKIES GRACE VITAL SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP AT LLANDOW KART CLUB

**THE penultimate round of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship was graced by some of the best weather South Wales had seen in previous weeks, and allowed the 81-strong entry to perform under sunny skies on a dry circuit.**

The event, which doubled as the finale to the expanded four-round Dragon Challenge, was opened as usual by the future of the club, as four Bambinos went through their paces.

Three of the quartet – Brooklyn Thomas, Oliver Thomas and Shayne Clarke – all achieved the gold award, while late entry Matthew Rees attained silver. All are experienced drivers now, and their lap times continue to come down steadily, with only marginal variations between each driver from month to month.

Another large Cadet field was next up, this time with 24 participants split between the Honda and Comer classes. The former was headed by Hugo Holmes who, having two top three results in the heats, came home

ahead of Ryan Luscombe and Ross Thomas in the final.

Thomas won the two heats not claimed by Holmes, while Luscombe, Joshua Martin, Tommy Farrell, Alex Rees and Jordan Hurman all featured in the top three during the day. Luscombe's effort, however, was enough to ensure that he shared the Dragon Challenge title with Hurman.

The Comers, despite being a numerically smaller group, produced some of the closest competition of the day, with Tom Rawlings and Lewis Griffiths battling over top spot throughout.

The first two heats were shared, with respective margins of 0.92secs and 0.67secs, before Rawlings secured his place at the top of the podium with wins in both heat three and the final.

Max Fenlon and Kieran Clarke took turns in third place, with the latter being there when it mattered most. Griffiths also came second in the Dragon Challenge standings, behind Tommy Foster.

Six drivers turned out in Honda Junior but, once again, it proved difficult to dislodge Ben Stevens from top spot. Having dominated proceedings pretty much whenever he was on

track at Llandow in 2012, Stevens again claimed four race wins, although Tom Ford kept him honest in three of the four encounters, getting closest in the final, where he finished just 0.53secs from victory.

Patrick Hill took second place in the one race that Ford could not pressure Stevens, but it was Thomas Croydon who came through to complete the podium in the final. Despite Stevens' dominance, it was Ford who emerged as Dragon Challenge champion, ahead of Croydon.

Junior TKM and Minimax were again combined, this time providing a 13-strong field that produced some close racing in both categories.

Despite the names on the entry list, Ryan Edwards ultimately proved unbeatable in TKM, claiming four wins to sweep the day. Scott Morris and Ross Chell shared second places, with the latter coming out on top in the main race, where Yousuf Ashraf, having twice finished third in the heats, also claimed the bottom step of the podium.

Edwards sweep only served to confirm him as Dragon Challenge champion, with Louis Bevan finishing as runner-up.

There was also a clean sweep in Minimax, where Dunksell's Sam Stephens remained undefeated. Behind him, Ryan Nutland twice took second in the heats, but was excluded from the final, where Jodie Handford came within a couple of 10ths of catching and passing Stephens.

David Spiller took third place behind the Llandow girl racer, with Ceran Sokhi and Lucas Wynne, who had both claimed top three heat results, completing the finishers.

Unsurprisingly, Stephens' record was enough to ensure that he claimed the Dragon Challenge crown, ahead of runner-up Nutland.

Junior Rotax was a little thinner in terms of numbers, but still produced some interesting competition even after Sam Morgan got into his stride and claimed victory in the last three races.

James Moorcroft and Toby Allen were fixtures throughout in second and third places, except where Rob Ellis, winner of heat one, popped up to claim second spot in race three. Morgan and Moorcroft were later confirmed as joint champions in the Dragon Challenge.

Senior Honda once again proved to be the

domain of remaining champion Simon Evans, but he did not have things all his own way for a change.

Having claimed heat one by a couple of seconds, Evans had to give second best to Nick Turley next time around, but was back in winning form in heat three, despite having had to chase down Alex Lewis for much of the race.

Lewis again proved to be his biggest rival in the final, crossing the line just over a second adrift, while Turley claimed third place.

Evans, as expected, added the Dragon Challenge trophy to his burgeoning collection, while Danny Griffiths took the runner-up honours.

The Senior Rotax class was graced by a sizeable grid, as 15 karts turned out, including graduates Macaulay Austin and Sam Handford who made their senior debuts.

The newcomers wasted little time in making their mark, with Austin claiming three top three finishes in the heats, including a maiden win third time around.

Handford followed him across the line on that occasion, beating earlier heat winners Matthew Dowers and Ashley Lewis in the process.

Come the final, however, it was Dowers to the fore as Austin ran into misfortune.

Handford kept up the pressure, eventually taking second place just six-tenths behind the class stalwart, while the visiting Lewis claimed the bottom step of the podium just ahead of David Entwistle.

Lewis was also confirmed as the new Dragon Challenge champion, with Seb Hutchinson finishing second overall.

The 177 class wins were shared between Wayne Stone and Simon Wheeler, with the former coming out on top when it mattered in the final. Nicky Coombs was third.

Stone and Wheeler also finished first and second in the final Dragon Challenge standings.

CRAIG LLEWELLYN

# Berlingo brings back memories

**Motoring by Tim Saunders**

**WHEN I was young I lusted after the Matra Rancho (1977 to 1984), probably the first leisure activity vehicle, inspired by Range Rover – Kim Basinger came later for me.**

Driving the Citroen Berlingo Multispace has reignited those memories as it looks similar, if taller than the Rancho.

At first glance the Pope-mobile styled design is not my typical choice of transport. However, it is a family-friendly people mover and a true multi-purpose vehicle – the perfect option for taking my wife, her parents and our baby daughter on a family trip to London.

The sliding rear doors are particularly easy to operate and are great for car parks where there's never enough room to open a normal car door properly without bashing the vehicle next to you. For this reason, strapping Harriett into her baby seat in the Berlingo is so much easier than usual.

The Citroen's boot makes light work of our luggage, consisting of numerous bags and a pushchair.

It's a marvellous family vehicle with plenty of cubby holes throughout as well as helpful overhead storage above the boot as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz. And there's a high driving position, too.

While at first the seats seem pretty comfortable, over a long journey they could be more supportive.

During our motorway jaunt Caroline's mum wants to get something from the boot and I am fully expecting to have to stop, but she discovers that the boot cover can be lifted from inside. The designers have really thought about the design of this vehicle.

Inside, occupants are treated to a spacious and snazzy interior with a dash of blue on the fabrics, complimenting the door trims and giving a bright and bubbly feel.



The Citroen Berlingo Multispace.

which is so often lacking in the clinical interiors of today. The dashboard is both user-friendly and funky. Copious amounts of glass ensure that it's light and airy inside.

The handbrake is right next to the driver's seat, a bit too close for comfort but you get used to it after a while. Its gutsy 1.6-litre, 90bhp diesel engine can cover more than 600 miles with its 60-litre tank.

While the five-speed box is perfectly adequate I do wonder whether a sixth gear might further improve economy.

Rear passengers get their own roof mounted air vents and fan control.

During a balmy summer's day the air conditioning makes for a much more pleasant environment.

From the outside the Berlingo Multispace is surprisingly compact when you consider the vast expanse of room inside. The mammoth tailgate makes a great shelter from the rain – in fact it is easy to imagine sitting on the edge of the boot and having a civilised picnic, with table, all under cover.

The downside is that the driver has to remember to leave space behind them in order to access the boot, making roadside parking an issue.

When driving, it does feel a little remote and cumbersome, particularly on manoeuvring to overtake. When the driver looks over their right shoulder, to check all is clear, their vision is impeded by the centre pillar, so extra care is required. There's no cruise control for motorway travelling either.

And if fifth gear is

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# Show jumpers benefit from grant scheme

**A SHOW jumping club in the Vale is hoping to ride off the back of Team GB's success at London 2012 and help inspire a new generation to excel in the sport.**

The 'British Show Jumping Area 35' club has been based at Spring Meadows in Llandow for several years, but following a £1,500 grant from the

Community Chest scheme they are now offering new coaching sessions that will help riders of all ages reach their potential.

Among the 65 medals won by Team GB at this summer's Olympics was a first show jumping gold in 60 years, and the impact has been felt in the rural Vale as local horse owners have been contacting the club to find out how they can train their horses and get involved.

Charlotte Edwards, from Spring Meadows, said: "We've been inundated with enquiries since the Olympics and this Community Chest grant will really help us to provide high level training on a regular basis."

"We are using a UKCC level 3 coach, which would be out of the question for many members, and to have an indoor facility during the winter is just a dream. There is a lot of hidden talent in the Vale and these coaching sessions will help to unearth and encourage that talent."

Riders aged from 10 and above are welcome at the sessions, which take place on various days during the week, and potential club members need to own their own horse.

Coun Gwyn John, the Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "The Vale has a strong background in horse riding, with successful racing trainers basing themselves here such as Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan."

"It is fantastic news that the show jumping club are able to offer these new sessions with

the support of the Community Chest scheme, and I hope that local horse owners of all ages make the most of this excellent opportunity."

A total amount of £28,408.44 was awarded in the latest round of Community Chest grants in the Vale, with the funding pot including £1,190.45 to help Penarth Town AFC set up a new under-13s junior football team, £1,484.64 for 'Fundamental Sports' to develop multisport sessions, and £1,500 for the Penarth and District Scout Group to introduce youngsters to water sports activities.

To discuss a potential Community Chest application for your sports club or organisation, call the Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies on 01446 704793.

You can also find out more at: www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay, and keep up to date with local community sports news by following: @valesportnews on Twitter.

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# GEM sport

## Kenfig stop Glynneath getting their revenge with a close victory

**KENFIG Hill recently defeated Glynneath in a league game and were expecting, and got, a tough match in the return encounter, as the visitors went all out for revenge.**

The game started at a frantic pace with the Mules having the better of the exchanges, just missing a long range penalty kick.

Minutes later, outside half Nicky Giles made no mistake putting over his second penalty attempt, but the Glynneath outside half Core Jones levelled the scores with a well-struck

penalty.

Kenfig Hill were playing well at this juncture, dominating the scrums and disrupting the visitors' line out, and a slick passing move from their own 25 saw the Mules stopped on the Glynneath 25.

From the ensuing ruck, scrum half Tom Briggs scored a sparkling individual try, crossing the line without a Glynneath player touching him, Giles converting.

With the wind behind them, Kenfig Hill played a kicking game with the speedy Mules backs causing all sorts of problems for the opposition, and they were denied

what looked a good try by being called back for a forward pass.

Although they had the lions' share of the possession, Kenfig Hill only added another penalty through Giles before half time, with Jones adding a penalty for the visitors.

There was a change of tactics in the second half, with Glynneath kicking with the wind and the Mules keeping the ball in hand.

Jones put over a penalty for Glynneath before the Kenfig Hill backs and forwards combined with some slick passing to put left winger David Williams over in the corner.

Glynneath replied with a penalty by Jones, but it speaks volumes for the home side's defence that the visitors were restricted to penalties, despite having good possession.

The Mules went back on the offensive and Nicky Giles scored a superb individual try, ghosting his way through the opposition; he then converted the try.

Glynneath then broke from inside their own half and raced up the field with their right winger showing a clean pair of heels to the covering defence; however as he dived over the line Tom Briggs appeared from nowhere and managed to get under him and rob him of the ball.

Nicky Giles then took a long-range penalty, which struck the post, and Kenfig Hill substitute Marc Fitzgerald was alert to the situation and caught the ball while the opposition defence looked on and crossed the line.

Kenfig Hill sat back and, as in the league game, gave away two debatable tries in the dying minutes of the game, with Glynneath captain and centre Greg Roberts crossing the line. Then there was a hotly-disputed penalty try, which was converted by Jones.

The Mules went back on the offensive and kept the ball away from the opposition until the final whistle.

**Final score: Kenfig Hill 30, Glynneath 24.**

For Kenfig Hill, there was another man of the match performance by back row forward Jason Davies, and livewire hooker Karl Davies



**Karl Davies on the attack.**  
PICTURES BY PETER GILLING

stood out, while Alun Brace had a good game at centre, as did David Williams on the wing. Brothers Ben and Dan Jones stood out in the forwards.

### MAESTEG CELTIC 50 MULES 2nds 21

The Mules second string arrived at Maesteg Celtic, expecting a difficult encounter as the Celtic first team had a bye from the first round of the WRU Plate competition.

The Mules came with a decent team, albeit with a number of players starting out of position. No 8 Dai Quinn began the game at scrum half, prop Richie Matthews played second row and hooker Kieren Tomlin played the first 30 minutes of the match in the left wing position.

The game was played at a high intensity with both teams looking to move the ball wide at all times. However it was obvious from the start that the Celtic team were better organised and more clinical in their general play and finishing.

The game was controlled by Celtic from fly half by the experienced Luke Richards, whose kicking out of hand and general distribution play was first class.

The Mules stuck to the task throughout the game and at one point trailed Celtic by only 10 points at 31-21.

However Celtic finished the game stronger, scoring three further unanswered tries in the final 10 minutes, although two of those tries came from obvious knock-ons that were

missed by the referee. Mules' man of the match went to flanker Matthew Keylock, who showed great commitment both in attack and defence and his efforts were duly rewarded with a well-taken try in the second half.

Other stand out performances were from prop Gareth Evans and lock Richie Matthews, who had his best game to date since joining the Mules this season.

This week the Mules return to league action playing against Bridgend Athletic Seconds in Newbridge Fields

Scorers for Kenfig Hill: Connor O'Connell (try), Matthew Keylock (try), Dale Wood (try), Craig Knight (three conversions).

### KENFIG HILL/CORNELLY YOUTH 67 WAUNARLWYDD 7

Cornelly Youth were outstanding, defeating the highly rated Waunarlwydd Youth 67-7, with all players contributing to a high-level performance.

Aaron Grabham scored six tries, Mike Kennedy two tries and Kristian Stenner, Adam Lloyd, and Logan Hickey a try apiece. Lloyd Bradley had five conversions and Curtis Kerton also contributed a conversion.

Head coach Ben John said it was a particularly pleasing performance with telling contributions by Evan Williams and Lee Arrowsmith.

Next week, the youth are away to COBRA in the Welsh youth cup.

GO'S

## Narberth edge out Ath in a topsy-turvy encounter

**THE Athletic kicked off at their furthest western outpost, Narberth.**

The Otters gathered and quickly showed their attacking intentions forcing a five-metre line out. The Athletic survived the catch and drive, but from a ruck scrum half Alan Killia crossed in the corner.

From the restart, Narberth were penalised for blocking and Steve Lewis opened the Athletic account with a penalty.

Narberth outside half Stuart Morris responded in kind. The Athletic then pounded the Narberth line with forwards Simon Mustoe, Lloyd Evans and Sean Williams prominent.

However their only reward was a second Lewis penalty. The Athletic made a hash of the restart and swift passing saw the home side wing cross in the corner. Morris converted to make the half time score 15-6 in favour of the Otters.

Narberth were again swiftly out of the blocks in the second half and wing Tom Burnell crossed for a converted try to extend their lead.

To their credit, the Athletic did not fold. They laid siege to the Narberth line for a long period before full back Marc Bennett spotted a gap and raced in under the posts. Lewis converted to reduce the deficit to 22-13.

Morris, the Narberth outside half, was keeping the Athletic at bay with long probing kicks. Eventually one of his chips over the Athletic defence led to a further converted try.

Again the Athletic bounced back when Bennett gathered a loose pass 50 metres out and outstripped the defence to cross under the posts. Lewis added the extras to reduce the deficit to 29-20.

Narberth responded when their full back gathered a Morris cross kick to cross for another converted try.

They gained a sixth try driving over from a five-metre line out to increase the lead to 41-20.

The Athletic were fielding a much changed back line, with Bennett at full back and Rhys Jones and Rhys Thomas playing for the first time as a centre pairing.

With half backs Aled Thomas and Steve Lewis playing with



**Ben Thomas and Morgan Evans in action for Bridgend Athletic.**

greater flair than of late, wings Nick Hinton and Kyle Dobbin were given more to do. Unfortunately Hinton broke his collarbone and will be sidelined for a while.

A break through the centre of the Otters defence by flanker Lloyd Evans saw centre Rhys Jones in support to take the scoring pass. Lewis converted to make the final score 41-27.

The re-emergence of the Athletic backs as an attacking force and the continued good endeavour of the forwards leaves the Athletic more optimistic for the future.

This Saturday, they face a stiff test at home

against local rivals Tata Steel, who held league leaders Bargoed to a 28-28 draw last Saturday.

### PORTHCAWL 12 BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 46

With a break from league action Bridgend Athletic 2nd XV had a very pleasant day out at the seaside as for the second successive week they notched up 46 points, crossing for eight tries in a 46-12 win at Porthcawl.

Rod Davies and Gareth Davies notched up try braces, with single touchdowns for Gareth Thomas, Ben Howe, Josh Miles and Tom Cole, who also added three conversions.

AB



**Marc Bennett on his way to scoring the Ath's second try of the game.**

## Bridgend chess news

**BRIDGEND'S A chess team continue unbeaten run after another excellent win against Barry.**

They now move to second place in the league in Division 2.

There were solid draws for A Divetta against P Watkins, and R Rees against S White on

the bottom boards, followed up by wins for M Kearns against K Gandy and A Baker against R Steel; however M Cleaves was outclassed by G Wilcock on the board 1 finale for a final score of 3 -2 to Bridgend.

For more information, visit [www.bridgend-chessclub.com](http://www.bridgend-chessclub.com). MK

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